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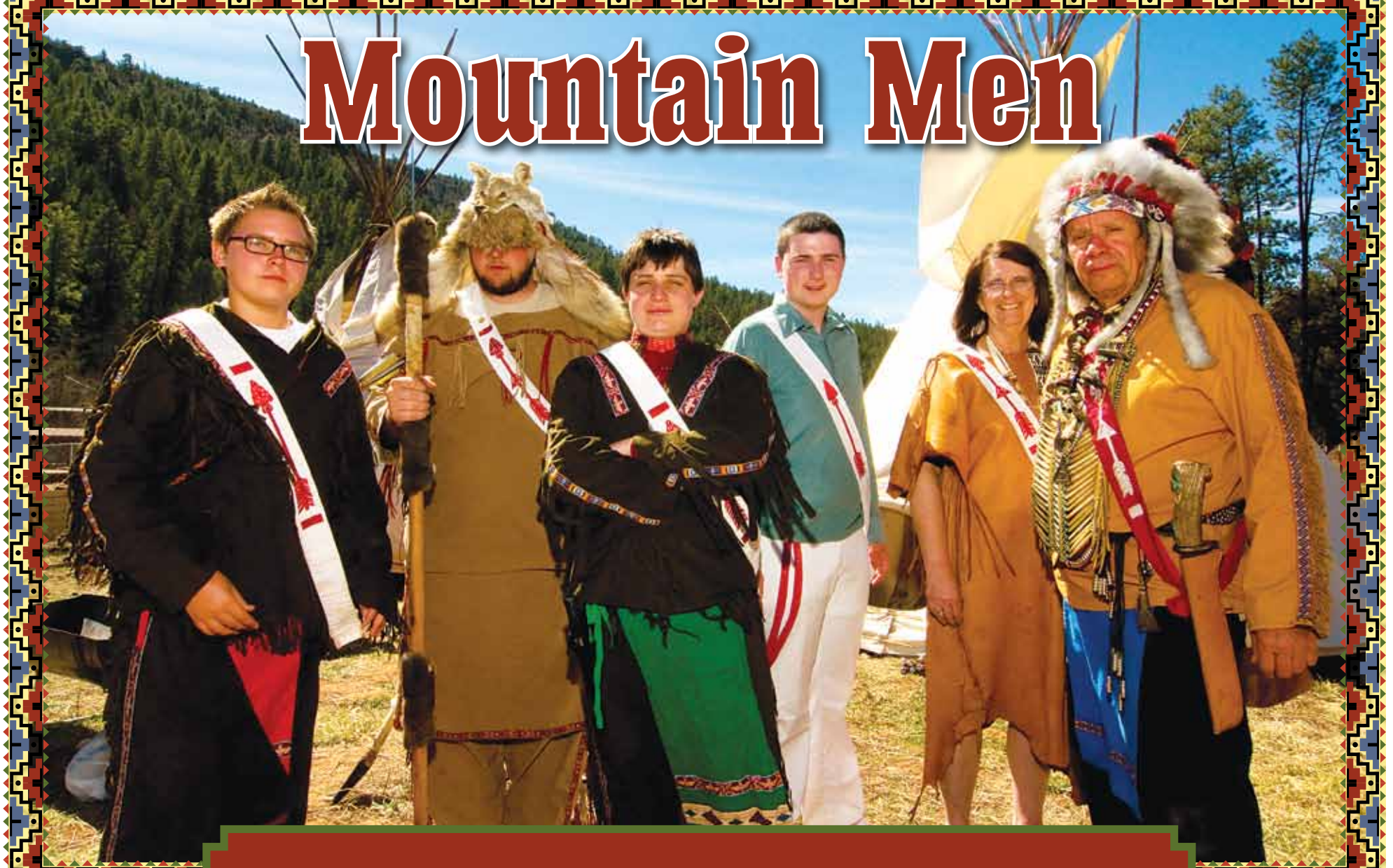
Mountain Men



Among the more than 850 young men and 300 leaders who participated in this year's 2011 Mesa District Mogollon Rendezvous was the contingent from the Tuwanasi Chapter of the Order of the Arrow, an honorary society of the Boy Scouts of America. Pictured left to right are Dominic Kristch, Cody Makita, Kameron Catalfo, Malachi Reynolds, Patti Hulet and Milt Hulet.

Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo

contents

cover story

Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo

Mountain Men

Reliving the Mountain Man Tradition 3

Special Needs

Addressing the needs of the mentally challenged 10

Sunbeam Teacher

Serves in calling for 30 consecutive years 13

columns & features

32 Cyber Surfin'
37 A Single Story
38 Community Services
40 In the Mommy Zone
41 From the Editor's Desktop
43 Celebrations
44 Missionaries
46 Business Directory

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Varsity Scouts Relive Arizona's Mountain MAN Tradition

Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo

In addition to the fun of learning about the ways of life of the mountain man, young men enjoyed a spiritual uplift as well as general Church leaders joined them and shared their testimonies at a training meeting and a fireside. Shown with young man, "cowboy" are leaders, (l to r) Adrian Ochoa, Second Counselor in the Young Men General Presidency; Brent Stapley "Booshway" for the Rendezvous and Mark Dietlein, a member of the Young Men General Board.

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

It happens every two years, a massive commemoration of the early 1800s, when Varsity Scouts from Mesa and across the state come together for what is known as a Mountain Man Rendezvous.

This year, the 2011 Mesa District Mogollon Rendezvous, was held in March at the R–C Scout Ranch in Payson. The event drew 850 Varsity Scouts and more than 300 leaders for 48 hours of games, learning and spiritual growth.

The rendezvous drew Scouts from 140 troops in the Valley, some from Yuma and even one unit from Texas. Responsible for the organization and success of this year's rendezvous was "Booshway" Brent Stapley and a staff of about 150 leaders.

Sam Webb, a member of the Peralta Ward in the Chandler Alma Stake and Senior District Executive in charge of the Mesa district of the Grand Canyon Council, says, "We do this rendezvous every two years for our mid-age boys, the 14- to 16-year old Varsity Scouts. It's a high adventure, sports-oriented activity, with a mountain man theme."

The event has been around long enough, he says, that "men are going now who were going as boys."

Meant to re-enact, or at least give some semblance of the mountain man's trading games and demon-

Continued on pg. 4

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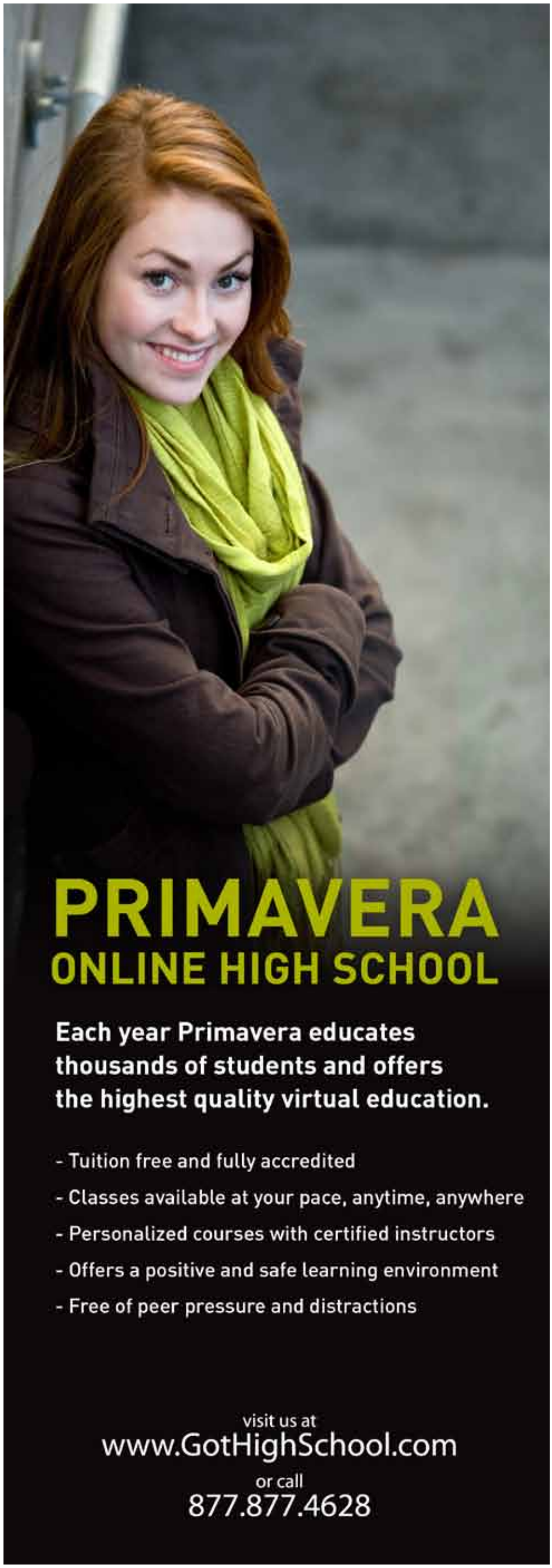
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Jim Millar, a long-time veteran of the Moutain Man Rendezvous events in Arizona, watches Varsity Scouts at this year›s rendezvous as they show their strength with a vertical climb.

Varsity Scouts

Continued from pg. 3

strations of strength and manliness, the rendezvous features games and classes—everything from bull-riding on a 50-gallon drum, to roping fake cattle, to shooting black powder rifles, blacksmithing and making ropes.

Each stake is responsible for what is known as an "outpost." At the Anasazi Outpost, for example, young men experienced arrow making, beadwork, leatherwork, primitive music and survival skills. While at the Marksman Outpost, they shot air rifles, had hawk throwing and knife throwing, archery and blow guns. And, at theSurvival Outpost, they learned about primitive fishing, tracking, trapping and game calling.

Members of the Order of the Arrow participated as well, dressed in Indian regalia and demonstrating traditional ceremonies.

Even the food and cooking of the mountain man is recreated at the rendezvous, with a Dutch oven cook-off competition as one of the highlights.

The participants sleep in teepees or in lean-to style, authentic-looking tents.

In addition, the boys dress the part, fashioning knives and making and wearing the frontier-style, parka-type shirts known as capotes, from the French word for "coat."

A uniform inspection grades the teams on the their overall appearance including whether they all have capotes; mountain-man type shirts; heavy sail-cloth type pants or leather-looking "breeches;" mountain man style hats; medicine pouches; moccasins or leggin's (with no points given for tennis shoes, hiking or cowboy boots or sandals); and mountain man type bags (no backpacks or fanny packs).

Jim Millar, of the 50th Ward in the Mesa East Stake, attended his first Mountain Man Rendezvous in 1984 and has participated in every one since then. He says in 1992 things were changed slightly, creating the format that continues to be used today.

"It's a great program for these young men," he says. "It's very well organized and great for the boys."

Brother Millar helped with the Timber Cruisers Outpost this year, where boys participated in jousting, a rope climb, log hoist and cutting logs with two-man bucksaws. Brother Millar also enjoys the Saturday "John Colter Run," a cultural experience that allows the boys to learn more about the mountain man era, "which spans from about 1820 to 1859."

"In Arizona, we have an interesting history regarding the early mountain men," Brother Millar says. "It is quite a fascinating era that includes figures like John Colder, Jedediah Smith and Kit Carson."

He says mountain men in the area that is now Arizona "served as guides for the early Mormon pioneers as they were moving west."

Brother Webb says, as a Scout executive, he was pleased with the fact that the event "ran very smoothly and no boys were hurt."

"Even better," he says, "was seeing the boys and adult leaders with the biggest smiles on their faces. You

Continued on pg. 5

Varsity Scouts
Continued from pg. 4

could see the pure enjoyment and feel the love of the leaders for these boys."

He believes a high point of the entire experience was the participation of Adrian Ochoa, second counselor in the Young Men general presidency; Mark Dietlein of the Young Men general board and Elder David LeSueur, Area Seventy over the North America Southwest Area who not only shared instruction but also spent time meeting the boys one on one.

"The Mountain Man Rendezvous was marvelous," says Elder LeSueur. "The planning and execution of the Rendezvous was remarkable and Brent Stapley and all of the staff should be commended."

Elder LeSueur says he enjoyed being with President Ochoa and Brother Dietlein.

"In addition to addressing the leaders, both of them gave inspiring comments to the boys in the Friday night fireside," Elder LeSueur says. "President Ochoa not only demonstrated his superior knife throwing and roping abilities during the day, but especially enjoyed sharing his faith and testimony with the young men. The association was wonderful. We express our gratitude to everyone involved."

Sheldon Hassell, 18, of the Dana Ward in the Pueblo Stake, was participating in his second Rendezvous, this year as a member of the staff.

"I helped with the geo caching. We used GPS, set different GPS coordinates" for a treasure-hunting type game, says Sheldon

"Because I was on the staff, our bishop had us listen to the leaders' meeting with the members of the general Young Men presidency," he says. "It was neat to be around people like that."

From the Friday night fireside, he remembers the phrase, "First the powder, then the ball."

"This was sort of the theme for the Mountain Man Rendezvous and we each got medallions with that on it," he says.

A reference to the proper way to load a black powder rifle, it was a reminder of priesthood responsibilities and that "things are meant to be done in order. We are given a set of things to do and that's what we need to," Sheldon says.

Patrick Rogers, of the Dana Ward, Pueblo Stake, was participating in his fifth rendezvous this year and his son, Kimball, 14, attended with him.

"It's a lot of fun up there and there are a lot of spiritual things that can happen as well," Brother Rogers says.

One of his responsibilities is to work with Bishop Dixon, of the Acacia Ward, to assign the boys' their "medicine names," which are revealed at a campfire ceremony.

He says, "Often the name is based on something you've done in camp or your personality." His son, Kimball, was named "Screaming Night Eagle," while Sheldon Hassell's medicine name is "Deep Pockets" and Kevin Hale's is "Road Rash."

The names are one more way of demonstrating some of the learning and confidence building that comes from the rendezvous experience.

"Some boys go way out of their comfort zone to do some things like repelling, for example," Brother Webb says.

All combined, the games, workshops and re-enacting the mountain man era have one ultimate goal, that of building and strengthening the young men who participate.

Brother Webb feels that goal was accomplished at the 2011 Rendezvous.

"The young men leave feeling really good about who they are and what they can accomplish," he says.

Photo by John Power, Biltmore Photo

Kevin Hale, of the Dana Ward, in the Pueblo Stake, shows some pioneer puzzles made by bending various pieces of metal.

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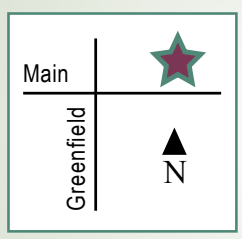

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Mesa Troop Honors EIGHTEEN EAGLE SCOUTS

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

When two wards in Mesa were combined last year, making new boundaries for the Cooley Park Ward, Mesa Mountain View Stake, they ended up with a large group of young men, many of whom needed to finish the requirements to earn their Eagle Scout awards.

"We had a lot seniors, so six or seven were right on the deadline," of the required age limit, explains the ward's Eagle Scout advisor, Gina Peterson.

Sister Peterson says they sat down as the new combined Troop 996 and said, "Let's just do it."

They ended up completing 13 Eagle projects in the first three months of this year. Five additional projects had been finished in late 2010, so the Eagle Scout Court of Honor held in February recognized a total of 18 new Eagle Scouts. Mesa Mayor Scott Smith was in attendance to meet the boys and congratulate them on their accomplishments.

"The kids did a fabulous job of working together. It really helped to unify the troop as boys from two units came together to cross paths and get to know the other half," Gina says.

"It was a great run," she adds.

The projects covered a wide range—everything from community beautification to literacy projects to collecting items for individuals in need.

For his project, Michael Rush or-

Continued on pg. 9

Photo courtesy of Gina Peterson

Mesa Mayor Scott Smith, attended an Eagle Court of Honor in February to recognize the accomplishments of 18 Eagle Scouts from the Cooley Park Ward, Mesa Mountain View Stake, most of whom supported one another and worked together to complete their projects in a three-month push to finish. Shown are (front row, l to r) Dan Glauser, Dallas Peterson, Logan Parker, Scott Upchurch, Michael Rush, Mayor Scott Smith, Hunter Smith, Austin Pennington, Conner Monks, Trevor Lyon and Devon Gunnell; second row, Robert Upchurch, Colton Nielsen, Hayden Smith; third row, Landon Gunnell, Dallen Sullivan; and top row, Hunter Bryce and Max Ganley. Not pictured is Matthew Willet.

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Eighteen Eagle Scouts
Continued from pg. 7

ganized a drive, ultimately collecting over 100 winter coats and 80 warm blankets for the Holbrook Indian Reservation Community; Landon Gunnell held a shoe drive for the Paz de Cristo homeless shelter, donating over 50 pairs of new and gently used shoes and work boots and new socks, for men who needed them to be able to work and provide for their families. Over 200 pair for women and children also were donated to Sunshine Acres.

Community beautification projects included Logan Parker's at the City of Mesa cemetery to help the cemetery locate, clean and mark graves that were overgrown and Max Ganley's project to "Save the Trees" at Barbara Bush Elementary School.

Another project reached out far beyond the local community as Dallas Peterson organized a uniform drive to outfit the 30 boys in the very first Boy Scout troop in Kosraea, a small island in Micronesia.

For three months the troop had projects going every Wednesday and Saturday. The 18 projects equated to 3026.75 collective hours of service.

"That's over 126 days of service; over four months of 24/7 service hours," Gina says.

"It was great for all of them to work together on these projects. They did tons of fundraising in the community and it was great to have a purpose and point to it all."

Earning an Eagle Scout award is a "monstrous process" as the boys work to decide on a project, make a plan, organize the efforts and get everything approved and written up. "Every troop needs to get someone who is a liaison for the boys and helps them get to the next step. I don't do it for them. I just offer a lot of help," Gina says.

In the end, "The boys have earned it and know they've earned it. They really experience becoming a leader," she says. "Not only is BSA making a difference in our lives and communities, but we are grooming leaders who are willing to share their time and talents with those who are less fortunate."

New Horizon School Presents "The Wizard of Oz"

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

During the first week in May, "The Wizard of Oz" will be presented by 4th, 5th and 6th graders from the New Horizon School for the Performing Arts.

Leads in the popular play, will be Lydia James as Dorothy, Britton Johnson as the Lion, Brennon Brown as the Tin Man and Ty Bosworth as the Scarecrow. Brooklyn Bryce will play the Good Witch, Lorrain Darion will play the Bad Witch and Jakob Scott will appear in the role of Dorothy's dog.

In New Horizon's traditional style, the stage will come to life with delightful fun, song and dance as Candice Huffaker directs the dance numbers; Peggy Moffett, the drama and Jim Wyler, Jonelle Seil and Brandon Seil, the music.

The play will be presented May 5 and 6 at 6:30 p.m. There will also be a matinee performance on May 6 at 3 p.m.

Tickets may be purchased at the school, at 446 E. Broadway (l/2 block east of Mesa Drive on Broadway, at the office on the east side) or by mailing a cashier's check to New Horizon School Play Tickets, 446 E. Broadway, Mesa, AZ, 85204. Tickets purchased through the mail will be left at will call.

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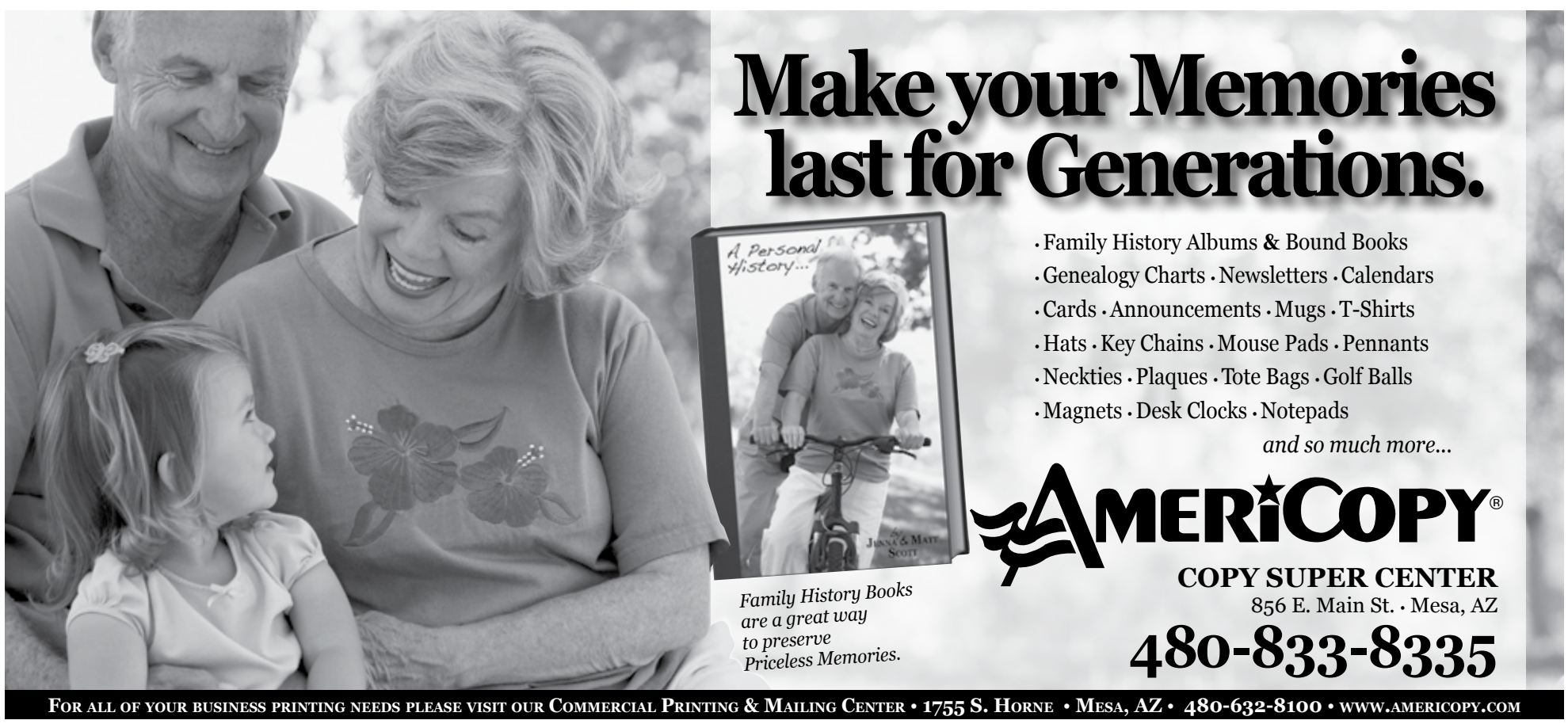
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Special Program Provides Opportunities and Development for Those with Special Needs

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Special Development, as it sounds, is a special program, designed for anyone nine years or older who has a handicap, whether physical or mental.

Started in the 1980s in the Maricopa Stake, it has been run by the Maricopa North Stake since 1992.

Under the direction of Darrell Knight of the Mesa 20th Ward, Special Development meetings are held each Tuesday night.

The meetings are "like the old Mutual program, where you had opening exercises with an opening prayer, song and scripture. We next share news and announcements, then anyone who wants to can get up and talk about anything they want to—what they are doing, something about their hobbies or anything they want to share," Brother Knight says.

He says this sharing time gives members a chance to talk in front of people. "We try not to limit their time," he says, adding, "Members also conduct meetings and lead music, with help."

"We want everyone to have an opportunity during that hour where they feel that they are number one."

They typically have about 20 people at the meetings, which are open to Church members and those of other faiths as well. Participants come from across the Valley and range in age from 9 to over 40.

An important aspect of the program is that it runs an organized Scout troop—Troop 657. "Over the years, we have accumulated 20 Eagle Scouts," Brother Knight says.

Scoutmaster Scott Morris has only worked with the Special Development for about two years, but has grown to love it.

"If they ever take that calling from me, I'll be really mad," he laughs.

A member of the Pioneer Ward, Gilbert Highland Stake, Brother Morris has a personal reason to appreciate the Special Development program.

"I don't have any qualifications, really, other than the fact that I have someone in my own family with special needs," says Scott. He and his wife have a seven-year-old son who has been diagnosed with autism. He appreciates the understanding and love he sees every Tuesday night.

He says, "Special Development has changed my life. It has been such a blessing to us."

Particularly impressive, he says, are the attitudes and testimonies of the participants. "They have a better eternal perspective. They see the eternal nature of things," he says.

Linda Hartmann, who was asked in 2000 to help with the music for the Special Development program, says: "It's just an amazing thing."

"These kids can slobber or drool on you, they can pick their noses, burst out right in the middle of a song with something they want to talk about," she says, "but, when I am there, I feel the love of these kids so much. Heavenly Father's most special children, the most chosen on earth are there, all in one room. These are the celestial ones."

Dean Brinkerhoff of the Udall Ward, Mesa Stake worked in Special Development for 20 years.

"I have always had a great love for those who struggle and have challenges," he says. "Special Development was a great experience."

Of his two decades of service, Brother Brinkerhoff says, "I might have helped a little; I tried."

In return, he has received a great deal of satisfaction from his service.

"I have enjoyed it," he says. "After working all day and not wanting to just sit around at night, I could go down there and really get an uplift."

Brother Morris says, "Others have tried to start similar programs" but haven't been able to keep them going. He believes the strength and longevity of Special Development can be attributed to "its history and the tradition of those who originally started the program."

Whatever the reason, Brother Knight says, Special Development has been a unique and lasting program that has done much good.

"It's really interesting to see how the members develop and the progress they make," he says.

Those interested in learning more can simply visit a Special Development meeting any Tuesday evening at 7 at the Westwood Building in Mesa.

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Changes to Prison Ministry Structure Add to Effectiveness of this Sacred Service

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Changes to the former Gila River Branch implemented in December 2009, have resulted in a new structure and greater effectiveness in coordinating the efforts of the prison ministry service.

Under the direction of former Area Authority Seventy, Elder Robert W. Lees, the Gila River Branch was divided into three branches, creating the new Gila River Branch, the Poston Butte Branch and the La Palma Branch.

"This is an inspired and beneficial reorganization," states the April Gila River Branch newsletter.

Poston Butte Branch President Bruce Herr agrees.

"The one branch covered a prison population of well over 40,000. They had more than they could handle effectively," President Herr says. "Now, specific stakes from the Valley works with each branch. Mine has five stakes we work with, so we're not out roaming the Valley for volunteers."

President Herr and his counselors oversee that branch that has responsibility for adult prisoners in the Eyman Complex units, as well as for the Pinal County juvenile facility in Florence.

There, on Thursday evenings, they hold meetings for young men and young women, many of whom are not LDS.

"We don't teach LDS doctrine per se. We stick to the Bible" occasionally referring to Book of Mormon prophets and sharing uplifting messages.

For the adults, "We don't provide the Sacrament, but hold a pseudo Sacrament-Priesthood type meeting, where we focus on gospel principles and teach from General Conference talks," he says.

Volunteers from the assigned stakes that support each of the three branches teach classes, serve as home teachers or participate in writing letters. Often, prisoners themselves are given the opportunity to teach classes as well.

President Herr says, for him, service in the prisons has been extremely rewarding.

"It has opened my eyes to the fact that even for those who have committed crimes and are in prison for an awfully long time, some for a lifetime, I have seen firsthand how much Heavenly Father loves these men and wants them to return home."

Mel Willis, as the La Palma Branch President, oversees the prison ministry for all the CCA units, the Florence Processing Center and Pinal County Jail.

President Willis says, "You can see the hand of the Lord in this reorganization and how the keys of the priesthood are being used," and adds that he has felt a tremendous spirit as he has participated in the prison ministry over the past six or seven years.

"It's interesting, but it happens every single time. We have 14 different classes at 14 different times, but when you slide the gate open, and then the men and women come in, there is such an obvious spirit that they are loved by Heavenly Father and that they are very, very elect," President Willis says. "Elder Lees quoted Elder Bednar, who said working in the prisons offers 'a front row seat to the workings of the atonement of Jesus Christ.'"

He says, "Some join the Church, others come back into the gospel, and all, I think, feel increased hope and the love of the Savior."

He adds that the blessings extend to those who serve as well. "Personal change comes in your life. It makes me a better person to participate in this service," President Willis says.

The Gila River Branch, under the direction of President Brad Carlson has responsibility for the Florence East, North, South, Central, Picacho, CACF and Florence West units.

A newsletter article by the branch presidency states:"We go into the prisons somewhat uninformed, not knowing exactly how these men fit into Heavenly Father's plan, and without a complete view of who they are and what they can become, but with a feeling that they are all very important to Him. We conduct meetings, teach, and treat them all the same. Our Heavenly Father knows them with perfect understanding and love. It is a wonderful opportunity to feel and see Him working with them, and to see their growth!"

"The only place that is more sacred to me is being with my family or in the temple," says President Carlson.

The prison ministry is now under the direction of Area Authority Seventy Jim Wright, with the assistance of his executive secretary, Gale Brimhall. Those interested in learning about serving in the prison ministry can do so by contacting their bishop.

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Sunbeam Teacher
Released After
30 YEARS

By Evelyn Hendrix
The Beehive

It was a bittersweet day in February when Ra-Nae Amadio was released from her calling. After 30 consecutive years of teaching the Sunbeam class, she knew it was time to retire. But the 75-year-old will always love "her" three- and four-year-olds.

"I've been through six bishops," Sister Amadio says, "and about 10 Primary presidents." She was first called to teach in 1981 in the Mesa First Ward. She is now a member of the Lehi First Ward in the Lehi Stake.

Sister Amadio estimates that she has taught a couple hundred children. "A lot have gone on missions. Some have come back and thanked me for the things I taught them."

She has taken her calling seriously and says her success is simple. "I'm there for one purpose: to teach them how to progress in the gospel," she says. "It's not babysitting." She has seen a few changes in Primary in the past 30 years, but the messages in the lessons are the same simple gospel principles.

Through the years, Sister Amadio has honed her teaching skills and discovered the importance of making the children feel loved and safe. At the beginning of the year, she meets with each new Sunbeam individually. "I show them the lesson book and talk to them about activities we will have. Then they aren't nervous about coming to a new class."

Sister Amadio also takes a photo of each child and puts it on their "special" chair, so they feel at home. She doesn't believe in simply reading a lesson and handing out crayons and paper.

"We act out the stories in the lessons," she adds. "We also act out the Primary songs so they know them. We have a really good time."

Photo by Barbie Marziale

Shown at right, surrounded by members of her last Primary class, is Ra-Nae Amadio, who was recently released after 30 consecutive years as a Sunbeam teacher.

"In 30 years, I've only missed six or seven Sundays," Sister Amadio says.

Over the years, she has collected many wonderful memories. "One time, after I'd been sick, a little boy said, 'We thought maybe you'd gone to heaven.'"

She has taught both the children and grandchildren of a ward member and enjoys seeing all the children as they grow older. "One of my Sunbeams is 55 years old now," she says with a chuckle.

Although she will no longer be in the Primary, Sister Amadio will still be surrounded by children. She is the mother of three grown children and a grandmother, and she also has been a foster mother for 28 years. She especially loves newborns and is currently caring for a two-month-old baby girl.

"I just love working with kids," Sister Amadio says. She says the most important tip she would give new Sunbeam teachers is to simply love them.

"Wait for them at the door, smile and give them a big hug!"

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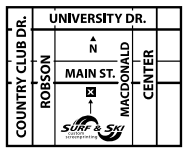

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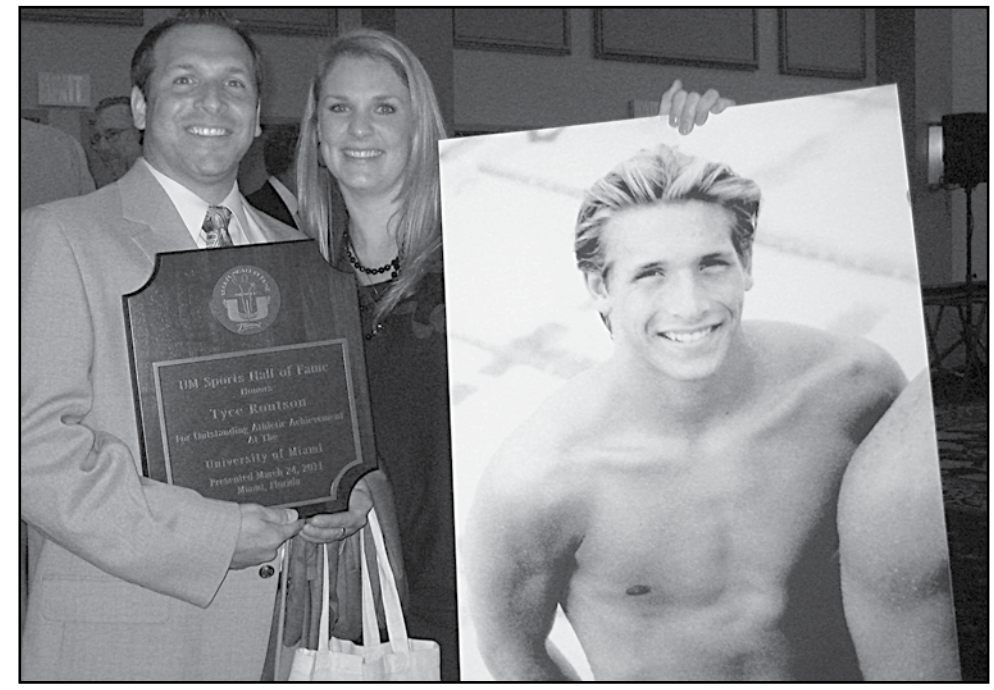

Photo courtesy of Tyce Routson

At a recent banquet where he was inducted into the University of Miami Sports Hall of Fame, Tyce Routson and his wife, Allison, hold a picture of Tyce that was taken during his diving days at the University.

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Tyce Routson began diving competitively at age 9, continued to hone his skills in high school and then at the University of Miami, ultimately capturing four NCAA championships and becoming an 11-time All American.

Now, a member of the Summerfield Ward, Higley Stake, Tyce was recently honored again, named to University of Miami's Sports Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility.

"You have to wait at least 10 years after graduation before being to be inducted," Tyce explains.

He had figured, if he were to earn such an honor, it may be much longer in coming.

"I thought I would be 40 or 50 years old or older. It's a real honor being inducted my first year."

Yet, this wasn't the first time Tyce had achieved somewhat surprising success. After his junior year, Tyce left to serve a mission. He had claimed two NCAA titles as a junior and "after such success, people were shocked and questioned why I was leaving."

But, he says, "It was the right thing to do and the right time to do it. I hadn't planned to serve a mission really at all, but after my junior year, I made a firm decision and there was no turning back."

According to the rules for missionaries, he didn't even go into the water for those 24 months, but returned as a senior and managed to recapture his title that first year he was home.

Tyce was a member of the U.S. national team from 1994 to 1997, participating in the Olympic trials in 1996 and again in 2000, where he finished sixth, just missing the chance to compete in the Olympics.

He retired from diving after the 2000 trials.

"I was ready to enter the business world and to pursue some of the more important things in life, like meeting and marrying my eternal companion and starting a family together, rather than waiting another four years for the next Olympic trials."

Tyce says, as a diver, "The three-meter event is probably my favorite, even though I've had the most success on the 10-meter platform. The 10-meter is way up there. There is no room for error being up that high. "

He believes several things contrib-

Continued on pg. 15

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ASU Student Graduates With More Than Just A DIPLOMA

By Stacy Johnson
The Beehive

The Institute building is a gathering place for the LDS students at Arizona State University. It is a place for taking classes, meeting people, doing homework and, most importantly, coming closer to Christ. For Ashley Jungbluth, it is her family away from home.

Now a member of the Institute Council and co-chair of the "munch and mingle" committee for the University 3rd Ward in the Tempe University Stake, Ashley was introduced to the Church in high school.

"My LDS friends stood out and [the boys] were different from the other boys in high school," Ashley says.

Ashley accepted her friends' invitation to go to church, and says, from the moment she arrived, she loved being there and returned week after week. "I didn't know what the peace, love, and sense of belonging really was, but I now know that it was the Spirit telling me this Church was true."

Ashley visited with the missionaries during the last few months prior to her high school graduation. Then, while taking a month-long summer trip to visit her dad in Wisconsin, she determined she would read the Book of Mormon before returning home.

"I just knew I needed to know for myself," she says.

In Wisconsin, she found a ward to attend. "I was terrified to go inside. I didn't know if it would be different because I didn't know anybody, but they greeted me with love and open arms. While I was there, my testimony just got stronger. I was doing it for me … and I knew it was the Lord telling me the Church was true." She was baptized shortly after returning home.

Ashley says her Institute instructors strive to bring the Spirit into the classroom and have taught her how to foster her own testimony and receive personal revelation. Ashley believes the Institute has been her saving grace.

"Here, I found friends with the same beliefs and same values. They took me under their wings and took care of me." As a member of the Institute Council, she now helps plan seminars, devotionals, and leadership training and other activities to help other students grow their own testimonies.

Photo courtesy of Ashley Jungbluth

Ashley Jungbluth joined the Church just days before starting school at ASU, where she now serves on the Institute Council and draws strength from other LDS students and from her Institute instructors.

Since arriving at ASU almost four years ago, Ashley has gone through several personal trials, including the struggle for acceptance from her family as she prepares for marriage in the temple. She says the wisdom and guidance of her Institute instructors, especially Brother Calton, has helped her overcome these challenges.

Ashley will graduate from ASU in May and will begin her studies to become a physician assistant this fall. "I can attribute everything, all my success to Heavenly Father. I obviously had the willpower and the drive, but to find my place and purpose has been through the gospel's plan."

She knows her trials have been there "to solidify what I knew was true and that I am a strong and capable woman who has every chance to be happy. I know I'm not going to be perfect, but I know the Church is true, and I'm going do whatever it takes to live as an example of that."

Diver Named to Hall of Fame
Continued from pg. 14

uted to his ultimately being named as a Hall of Famer.

"I'm not sure I had the most talent. I did work hard and set goals for myself," Tyce says. More than that, though, "It was the level of my teammates. I had teammates who were better than me, in a good way. It was always a footrace to keep up with them."

Coach Randy Ableman from the University of Miami was also instrumental in helping Tyce reach his potential.

Others who have inspired him in his life, particularly as he was working to strengthen his testimony and prepare for his mission, are Gordon B. Hinckley and his brother, Steve Routson.

"Steve showed me by example what I wanted to have. I looked at his family and that was a perfect example for me."

Now, Tyce works as a project manager. He and his wife, Allison, have three girls under the age of four.

"They love the pool and we're working on swimming. I plan to at least open them up to diving, just because of what the sport was able to do for me. If it captures their interest, that's great. If not, that's okay too.

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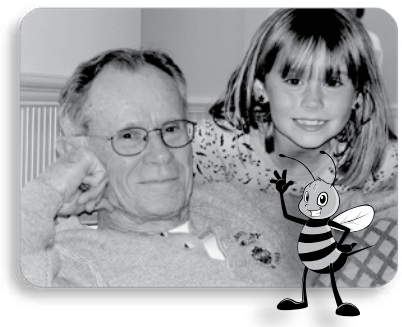

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"Relentless"

tells story of one-handed basketball player's success

Photo by Garrett Davis

Dax Crum, the first one-handed player to be awarded a basketball scholarship to an NCAA Division I school, receives a standing ovation on Senior Night as he is recognized with a "senior appreciation award" at Southern Utah University. Dax's little sister McKenzie (second from left); his father, Richard; and his wife, Ashley, were there to support Dax.

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Dax Crum is not your typical basketball player. He's one of the best.

Yet, his success tells only part of the story.

Great at neighborhood pick-up games, he went far beyond that, leading his New Mexico high school team to three state championships in a row and finishing with a start in his region's All-Star Game.

While racking up the points on the basketball court, he was also making a name for himself in soccer. It was soccer that ultimately earned him a full-ride scholarship to Arizona Western College in Yuma.

His second year there, he claimed a spot as a walk-on basketball player, opening yet another chapter of success and accolades.

Such success is impressive by most standards. But, for Dax Crum it was truly a mammoth feat. Dax did it with only one hand.

Now, his father, Richard Crum, of the Fairfield Ward, Kimball East Stake, tells Dax's story in a recently released book called *Relentless*. It's the story of how Dax dealt with his handicap early on, how he endured countless trials and obstacles and, ultimately, how he ended up becoming the first NCAA Division I basketball player with only one hand to earn a full-ride scholarship. He proved himself at Southern Utah University as well, becoming a starter there.

Relentless is also the story of the father-son relationship Richard and Dax share. That relationship was fostered early on and cemented on the basketball court, when Richard was a coach to his son. Then, that relationship was heavily relied upon as, together, they faced losing Dax's mother, Valerie, and then, just a handful of years later, dealt with the passing of Richard's second wife, Kristi Sherwood Crum.

"We've always been a team," Richard says. "He calls me his 'rebounder.'"

"He was always there for me," Dax says, "and it's been good to be there for each other."

Even the writing of *Relentless* was a "fun father-son project for the last few years," Dax says.

Richard agrees and says how much he has enjoyed Dax from early on.

"Your heart is really stretched with these kids that come with challenges like this," Richard says. He says it's been amazing to watch Dax adjust as "every day presents something difficult to do. … even opening a can of corn requires two good hands."

Dax, whose remarkable shoe-tying ability is shown in a You Tube video (Relentless Dax Crum), says, "I do things that other people do every day. I just do them in a one-handed way."

He realizes that it would have been easier to simply stick with soccer and says he didn't set out to prove anything by pursuing basketball.

"I've just always had a love for basketball," he says.

Dax admits it hasn't always been easy and he has been discouraged at times.

"I think everybody feels that way sometimes—when you think there's no way out, no options and that you are never going to amount to anything or accomplish anything."

"Those are times when I've had people step up and help me through," he continues, "and when the Spirit has encouraged me."

He and Richard both hope the book will do the same for others.

"We've seen that in small doses already," Richard says. "People who are having rough times in their lives have told us the book has inspired them to keep going and push through the hard times."

The book ends with a statement of encouragement for all, one that Dax has learned to live by: "Life will never be fair. Heroic actions come from committed players. Make the commitment, play the game, and win."

Dax now lives in Salt Lake City, where he is a manager for Wells Fargo and assistant basketball coach at Davis High School. He and his wife, Ashley, are expecting their first child.

Relentless ($13.99), published by Bonneville Books, an imprint of Cedar Fort, Inc., is available in Walmart, Costco, Barnes and Noble, Seagull Book and Deseret Book or online at www.cedarfort.com.

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Covenant Communications Editor Discusses Trends in LDS Book Publishing

By Cindy Williams
The Beehive

Kirk Shaw, senior editor at Covenant Communications, was the keynote speaker at the 2011 Writers Conference of the American Night Writer's Association (ANWA) held in Phoenix in February.

Shaw spoke of new trends in the LDS publishing world, saying, "There are more and more books being published in this market each year, and so the goal of each author in the market should be to improve her or his craft—to try to rise above the crowd and give something exceptional to the market."

Shaw sees the Covenant's role in publishing books for LDS readers and the general public as twofold. "First, publishing and creating products that uplift, inspire and specifically invoke LDS themes, values, characters, etc., and second, doing the same with products that aren't necessarily LDS-specific but that provide a clean alternative to national products. An example would be a clean suspense novel."

To keep pace with technology and the demands of the market, Shaw says, "We started publishing new books as Amazon ebooks last year, and we're still working to inform customers that it is possible to get our books on Amazon. Ebooks will be a large boon for those of our readers who do not live in the U.S. and for whom shipping prices overseas can become prohibitive."

Shaw adds, "We produce a wide range of products, covering the gamut from fiction to cookbooks to photography/gift books to Christmas books to songbooks, and we're always looking for something new that we haven't done before but that could possibly sell well in the LDS market."

With the progress and flux, Shaw says, readers are still drawn to traditional favorites, such as "suspense, historical fiction, solid nonfiction like narrative nonfiction/memoir."

"Romance is a perennial seller in any market, and

Continued on pg. 19

Photo by McKenzie Deakins

Kirk Shaw, senior editor at Covenant Communications, discussed trends in LDS publishing at the 2011 Writers Conference of the American Night Writer's Association held in February.

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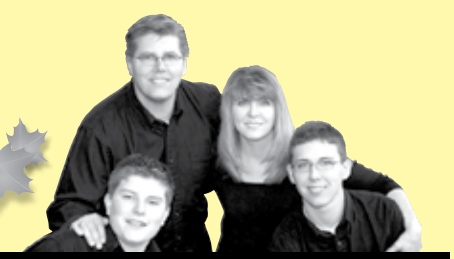

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Construction Moves Forward for Gilbert and Phoenix Temples

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

At both the Gilbert and Phoenix temple sites, early stages of construction are underway.

The Gilbert Temple site, on the southeast corner of Greenfield and Pecos roads, was dedicated at a groundbreaking ceremony on November 13, 2010. The task of burying the power lines along the perimeter of the property was completed prior to the groundbreaking. As of January 2011, the below-grade work and excavation was continuing and earth movers had begun grading and preparing the site for construction.

In early April, Roc Arnett, of Church Public Affairs said, "Although the site is very secure for safety reasons, one can see that there is a beehive of activity and two large cranes operate daily. The sub basement is being dug, and I understand the progress is on schedule by the contractor Okland Construction."

For the Phoenix Temple, design work was done by CCGB Architects of Phoenix, with Scott Walker as lead. After neighbors raised concerns about the originally submitted plans, modified pans were submitted in August 2010. The City of Phoenix Planning and Development Services Department granted preliminary site approval on November 30, 2010.

Now, says Brother Arnett, "With preliminary site plan permits issued from the City of Phoenix, the contractor, Porter Brothers, has started pre-groundbreaking construction to build temporary parking, to remove fences and shrubs and to construct the underground water retention storage."

A formal groundbreaking date for the Phoenix Temple has not yet been set.

For updates about the Phoenix Temple, visit www.phoenixmormontemple.com.

Covenant Communications Editor
Continued from pg. 18

ours is no exception," he adds.

The father of three, Shaw stresses the importance of reading to children. He tells parents: "Buy books for your kids. Help them to have reading goals. One thing I will always thank my father for (he is an elementary school teacher) is his ambitious offer to me and my brother and sister: any book you read on our bookshelves will become your own book. There's something about book ownership that really helps kids feel like they can tackle the world and become whoever they want to be."

Shaw, from the Eagle Mountain Utah Stake, spends much of his time corresponding with authors, working on manuscript idea and brainstorming possible revisions. "I also manage the contractors and editorial assistant and ensure we're having quality work done when it's being outsourced. I do a lot of line and substantive editing, primarily with fiction (about 65 percent of my workload) but also some inspirational, doctrinal and children's books," says Shaw.

During his two-day visit to Arizona, Shaw spent two days serving as a faculty member at the ANWA Writers Conference and listening to pitches from hopeful local authors.

Shaw says, "I'd like to thank the ANWA team for inviting me down to Phoenix during the cold winter of Utah to enjoy their personalities, talents, and—not to forget—fresh strawberries. They are a determined group who will achieve what they set out to do."

Most of all, he enjoys participating in any efforts to promote reading and writing.

"I love books and know the power they offer us," Shaw says.

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Coach Teaches Boys to ACHIEVE Their Personal Best

Photo by Stephanie Abney

Coach John Lambert has inspired his junior high basketball players both on and off the court. His team includes, on the front row (left to right) Gaspar Sebastian, Rueben Inzunza, Geo Medina, Brian Ortiz, Jose Solis, Jose Fimbres, Pablo Santiago; and, back row, Emmanuel (Manny) Ojeda, Coach John Lambert, Ruben Reyes, Gilberto Anguiano, Brian Perez, Luis Palifax.

By Stephanie Abney
The Beehive

A part-time coaching job at the local YMCA changed the direction of John Lambert's life. John hails from Granada Hills, California, where he was raised in the Church. After serving a mission in the Seattle Washington Mission, John earned a degree in history from Cal State University Northridge.

John, who had always been sports-minded, began coaching YMCA basketball as a young man. This experience gave him a desire to go into education as a career. He started substitute teaching in the Los Angeles Unified School District in 2002 and returned to school to get his teaching certification and become a reading specialist.

After talking with his brother about what a great place it is to live and teach, John moved to Arizona. It also gave John a chance to spend more time with some of his nephews and nieces, whom he adores. John is a valued member of the Adobe Ward, Mesa Mountain View Stake. His work with young people includes coaching, teaching at church and in the public schools, and serving as a Boy Scout leader.

When John joined the staff at Mesa Junior High School as a seventh-grade social studies teacher, he also took over the intramural basketball team. Coach Lambert, always involved in sports in his youth, demonstrated his strong commitment to "paying it forward."

John has been a constant source of support and encouragement, often sponsoring the team himself when entrance fees are needed. John made numbers out of masking tape and put them on some old blue and white practice jerseys. He had to reapply the tape before every game.

Most of the boys on the team had never played organized basketball before but that didn't stop Coach Lambert from taking the team all the way to the championship game. When they played the game for the championship, they played full out, but it was their third game of the day and the boys were getting tired. Coach Lambert's team ended up losing by only six points.

Continued on pg. 23

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"Uganda TOUCH"
Hosts Reception for African Princess, Elizabeth Nyabongo

By Stephanie Abney
The Beehive

African princess, Elizabeth Nyabongo, of Uganda, visited Arizona in March to participate in a fundraising reception hosted by a nonprofit organization called "Uganda Touch."

Reception attendees heard Princess Elizabeth's remarkable story and learned more about her African culture. The princess, who has a law degree from Columbia University, represents Uganda as an international diplomat.

Princess Elizabeth works closely with Kimberley Clark Kartchner, who, with her father, Don, Clark, founded Uganda Touch, which they now co-chair.

Don and his wife, Mary, are members of the Aspen Ward, Mesa Kimball East Stake. Kimberley and her husband are the parents of five children and live in the Leonora Ward, Mesa Hermosa Vista Stake.

As the acronym "Touch" suggests, Uganda Touch began with a focus on "The Orphaned Uganda Children of Hope." It has expanded to bring hope to many people in need, through projects that provide medical care, clean water and more. Efforts include sponsoring students by providing tuition, books, clothing and other educational needs and advising people interested in adoptions.

With the help of Princess Elizabeth and others, Uganda Touch has become more widely recognized. Recently, the world-renowned "Project Cure," which helps developing nations address the sick and dying, awarded Uganda Touch $450,000 of medical equipment and supplies. These will be used to complete a clinic that will aid in the testing and treatment of HIV and malaria, ultimately saving countless lives. The organization's goal now is to finance the shipping of the huge container of medical supplies to Uganda.

In addition, Kimberley is working with ASU engineering graduate students on another project that is near and dear to her heart; a reservoir that would serve the people of Burundi, Africa. Burundi has no running water or electricity and the planned reservoir would impact the lives of 82,000 people living on the borders of Rwanda and Congo. The Burundians continue to suffer as a result of the civil war that has affected the entire region. However, unlike Rwanda, Burundi has not received international attention and help to get back on its feet.

The fact that plans are underway for the reservoir is miraculous to Kimberley.

"I have seen Heavenly Father's hand in this. He has opened doors for us," Kimberley says. ASU Engineering professor Richard Filley approached her, offering the skills of his graduate students to design and construct the reservoir, a project that will take a

Continued on pg. 23

Photo by Don Clark

Discussing ways to support efforts of Uganda Touch to bring clean water, medical supplies and education to the people of Uganda are (l to r) Mike Medoro, local president of Project Cure; African princess, Elizabeth Nyabongo, of Uganda, who visited Arizona in March; and Kimberley Clark Kartchner, co-founder of Uganda Touch.

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Uganda Touch
Continued from pg. 22

year to complete. Their plans include traveling to Burundi to see the project completed.

Kimberley and Don say there are many ways people can help their efforts.

"We have volunteers, often young adults, who go to Uganda to teach English, usually for a three-month stay. The African students love to connect with American pen pals via email. We can even use help with our website design," Don says. (To volunteer, call Don at 602-686-2022.)

While the organization is growing, Kimberley says, donations are always needed and appreciated to help move the work along. All donations go directly to the work, since Uganda Touch is an all-volunteer, grassroots, family-run nonprofit 501c corporation with no paid salaries and, therefore, no administrative expenses.

"You can change the lives of your brothers and sisters who are in such dire need of clean water and medical care with a tax deductible donation," Kimberley says. To make a donation, visit: http://www.ugandatouch.org/

Coach Teaches Boys to Achieve
Continued from pg. 20

Through the intramural events, John learned about the Mesa Youth Basketball League, sponsored by the Mesa Public Schools, and built a team of Mesa Junior High seventh and eighth graders. This league allows them to play basketball year round. John saw this as the perfect opportunity to help the boys learn to develop skills that would serve them well throughout their lives.

He loves the spirit of optimism that surrounds his ballplayers.

"They have learned teamwork, discipline, and to follow directions. Being part of the team has given them a sense of belonging," says John.

He leads by showing love and appreciation for the boys. He even texts the players after their games to thank and encourage them. John is happiest when he sees his students achieving their personal best in both their academic and personal lives. He sees basketball as a means to this end.

The players value his influence. Eighth grader Pablo Santiago, a National Academic League (NAL) scholar, says, "I consider Coach Lambert my best coach. He has taught me things I didn't know before and I've been playing for four years."

Another eighth-grade NAL scholar, Ruben Inzunza, eighth grader, says, "The team is motivated and has improved as we've gone through the season. He's a great coach."

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Two Gilbert Women Named *Mothers of the Year*

Photo courtesy of Shawni Pothier

The Arizona Chapter of American Mothers, Inc., awarded the title of Young Mother of the Year for 2011 to Shawni Eyre Pothier, of the Higley Groves Ward, Gilbert Highland Stake.

By Evelyn Hendrix
The Beehive

At a recent banquet, the Arizona Association of American Mothers named two mothers as this year's best moms. Ironically, both are from Gilbert and both are members of the Gilbert Highland Stake.

Myrna Sheppard, of the Constellation Ward, is the 2011 Arizona Mother of the Year; while Shawni Eyre Pothier, of the Higley Groves Ward, is Young Mother of the Year.

Sister Pothier was raised in a family that traveled extensively and she learned to appreciate different cultures and environments. She served a mission in Romania and graduated from BYU with a bachelor's degree in social work. She and her husband, David, have lived in Washington DC, and China, and settled in Arizona nine years ago.

The Pothiers have five children, ages 4 to 13. They teach their children to serve others and have traveled to Africa to provide medical care and to build a bridge.

Photo by Troy Hancock Photography

Myrna Sheppard, of the Constellation Ward in the Gilbert Highland Stake, is the 2011 Arizona Mother of the Year.

The Pothier's youngest child has been diagnosed with Bardet-Biedl syndrome, a rare genetic condition, which causes vision loss. This has prompted their involvement with the Foundation Fighting Blindness, which Sister Pothier says has helped them "become more aware of others with special needs."

This year, as an ambassador of motherhood, Sister Pothier hopes to help others understand the importance of motherhood.

"I think we can 'popularize' the beauty of motherhood to young women today by adoring our job and lifting it up to be wonderful and rewarding rather than mundane and thankless," she says. "It's all in the attitude."

Sister Pothier credits her own mother, Linda Eyre, for providing a great example.

"She has always been there, strong and solid, loving her job as my mother, which makes me in turn love mine as well." The mother-daughter team has written *A Mother's Book of Secrets*, and Sister Pothier also blogs about mother-

Continued on pg. 25

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Photo courtesy of Myrna Sheppard

Gilbert mom, Myrna Sheppard (middle row, 4th from left), was honored recently for the way she fulfills her role as a mother. She and her husband, Bill, are the parents of 7 children and 16 grandchildren.

Photo courtesy of Shawni Pothier

Arizona's Young Mother of the Year, Shawni Pothier, and her husband, David, live in Gilbert and are the parents of five children, Max (13), Elle (12), Grace (9), Claire (7) and Lucy (4).

Mothers of the Year

Continued from pg. 24

hood at http://71toes.blogspot.com.

Sister Sheppard is the mother of seven children, ages 20 to 38, and has 17 grandchildren. She was raised in a farming family in Tempe, "a magical place to grow up." She earned her bachelor's degree in secondary education from ASU and taught high school. Sister Sheppard and her husband, Bill, lived in several states before returning to Arizona 27 years ago.

She has served on multiple PTA boards, was a member of the Gilbert School Board for 16 years and served as a founding clerk and president of the East Valley Institute of Technology Governing Board. She has recently returned to teaching.

The Sheppard's daughter, Haley, who was born with Down's syndrome, passed away at age 13 from a heart defect. Sister Sheppard has become an advocate for the disabled and works to strengthen school policies regarding disabilities.

Sister Sheppard is "overwhelmed, grateful and very humbled" to be named Arizona Mother of the Year. "I am an ordinary mother with extraordinary children," she adds.

Her daughter, Chandra Frost, says her mother taught "that we were of great worth, not only to ourselves, but to Heavenly Father, our parents, our community and to the world at large."

Chandra adds that her mother was constantly "empowering us to bulldoze our own obstacles and slay our own dragons."

"Being a parent is the only calling that lasts forever," Sister Sheppard says. She encourages parents "to nurture their children with love and high expectations and teach them to have a strong work ethic."

The two honorees will represent Arizona at the national American Mothers Association Convention in April.

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Photo by Rob Hart

Arizona composer, Shauna Hart (left), speaks with well-known musical artist, Janice Kapp Perry, after the Church Music Submission Concert held in the Assembly Hall on Temple Square in February.

Local Composer Wins Distinctive Awards And Has Her MUSIC Performed On Temple Square

By Rachel Faas Trim
The Beehive

"You never know what kind of inspiration your God-given talents will bring to someone, unless you share your gifts," says composer Shauna Hart, of Mesa's Lindsay Ward, Hermosa Vista Stake.

In February, Shauna's talents were recognized on two separate occasions on Temple Square, a testament of her efforts to realize her goal of bringing others to Christ through music.

Her song, *Quest for Excellence*, received an Award of Distinction in the "Instrumental and Other" category of the 2010 Church Music Submissions Contest and was subsequently performed at the Church Music Festival in Salt Lake City on February 18.

Quest for Excellence is also the last song in Shauna's musical program, *One Heart One Purpose*, a 2010 finalist winner in another of the Church's talent contests, the Cultural Arts Contest. The contest committee chose 3 of the 14 songs from, *One Heart One Purpose* and directed their performance on February 4 in Temple Square. The songs were: *Chosen Generation, Redeem Your Dead* and *Come Forth*.

"I love that my music can be used to promote Christ," says Shauna. "The scripture, D&C 18:10, is close to my heart. 'Remember the worth of souls is great in the sight of God.'"

"Music," she adds, "can help inspire us to obtain our eternal rewards."

Shauna tries to create uplifting songs that are versatile enough to be performed alone or in a musical program.

"I don't care how the songs are performed, as long as the integrity of the music is maintained," she says. "My satisfaction comes from hearing the music presented and often hearing the testimonies of the participants and how the music inspired them."

Shauna's compositions continue to be recognized locally as well. In January 2011, her song *Gethsemane* won awards at her ward cultural arts event and again at a culminating stake cultural arts night, where finalists from the wards performed. The events were organized as a way to recognize individual talents in the stake and to celebrate completion of the new Hermosa Vista Stake center.

Though Shauna has been creating music for over 30 years, she admits that she doesn't read music very well. This has not stopped her from transferring the full-orchestra compositions that she "hears" in her head to paper. Arrangers Rebekah Jennings and Brent Jorgensen notate Shauna's inspirations so others can enjoy them.

"The Church contests are a wonderful avenue to share your work," says Shauna. "The winning compositions become part of an inspired bank of Church-approved music that members can choose from as they plan musical events."

On the Church's website, www.lds.org, the Church Music submission guidelines read: "The works submitted should be suitable for use in Church units, teach gospel principles in uplifting ways, be doctrinally correct, and accurate if historically based."

"Even though, the contests can give one's music an avenue for wider use,"

Continued on pg. 27

Mesa STARS Volunteers Work with Children of Incarcerated Parents

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arizona (BBBSAZ) has the goal of helping children realize their potential through professionally supported one-to-one relationships with volunteers who care about them. Since children of parents who are incarcerated often need these type services most of all, BBBSAZ runs a program called Mesa STARS.

"This program specially matches children of incarcerated parents in Mesa with volunteer mentors from Mesa and the surrounding areas," says Dorian Townsend, grant specialist.

"We recognized the need for the STARS program in the Mesa area because three of the state's zip codes that have the highest incidence of incarceration are in Mesa," she says. "That means there are quite a few kids in the Mesa area who don't have that positive role model."

The youth in the program are 6 to 18 years of age.

"While they come from a wide range of backgrounds and have different experiences, they have a common desire to have a positive adult figure in their life," Dorian says.

Volunteers are asked to meet with a child two to four times a month to do things they both enjoy, such as trips to the park, biking, movies, sporting events, cooking or concerts. Volunteers are asked to make a one-year commitment.

Mesa STARS is looking for volunteers as well as youth to be in the program. To learn more, contact www.HelpArizonaYouth.org or call the Mesa STARS' Debbie Haen at 602-769-7502.

Local Composer Wins Awards

Continued from pg. 26

Shauna says, "sharing our talents is not about earning awards. It all leads back to using our God-given talents for good."

Shauna and her husband, Rob, have five grown children and three grandchildren.

For more about Shauna Hart's music, including information about her upcoming CD and book of sheet music, visit her website at www.hartsongs.net.

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LDS Author, Joan Sowards, Publishes Third Novel

By Cindy R. Williams
The Beehive

In Joan Sowards' latest book, readers become acquainted with people in the Book of Mormon times and see their culture and their everyday way of living, thinking and acting. The story of *The Star Prophecy* is about Enoch, who knows he must set sail across the great waters in search of his dream—to see the face of the Messiah.

Joan weaves the fictional story, depicting what it may have been like five years after Samuel the Lamanite stood on a wall in the city of Zarahemla to prophecy the birth of Christ.

She says, "This is the first novel that I know of that tells of Nephites returning to Jerusalem, let alone to find the Christ Child. I wrote it to tell the story, to get people to realize that it could have happened the way I portrayed it.

The idea for *The Star Prophecy* came from a discussion held at an LDS Institute class attended by Joan's daughter.

Joan says, "My daughter came home from an Institute class all excited about their discussion. As she explained it, I got goose bumps. I knew this would make a great novel."

The author says she felt the direction of the Spirit as she wrote the book.

"The rough draft took about three months. I was inspired by the scriptures, my research, and, I believe, the Spirit. The story is fiction, but I truly believe in the premise. It was a great experience."

It is a great read at Christmas—an alternative to Santa Clause and secular stories."

The Star Prophecy was written for a broad audience.

Joan says, "*The Star Prophecy* is for everyone who loves Christmas and the nativity story, or who loves an adventure. People who enjoy a different perspective on an old story—on the nativity story in this case. It is about a young man, so it is labeled YA –Young Adult, but everyone can enjoy it."

Sister Sowards says that readers will get two important messages from *TThe Star Prophecy*: That "the Book of Mormon and the Bible are not so far apart in their message and that we are all one people under a caring God and that the nativity story is true," says Sister Sowards.

The Star Prophecy, published by Walnut Spring Press, is available in LDS bookstores and online at Amazon.com. The first chapter and blog reviews are available at http://joansowards.blogspot.com/

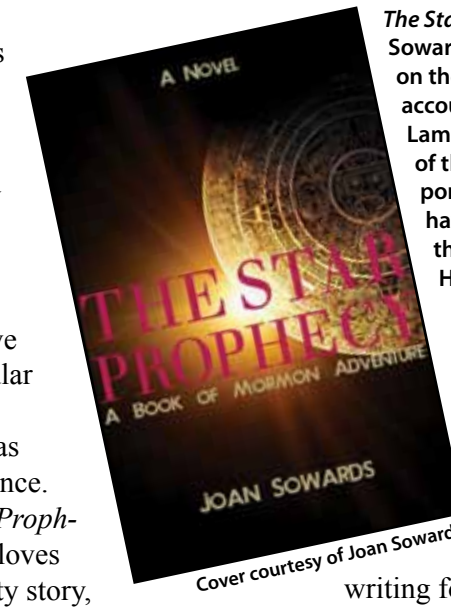
Sister Sowards has been writing for 18 years. Along with her two other published books, Haunted Haven and Chocolate Roses, Joan's musical, "*Come to Lehi!*" has been presented several times in her Lehi Stake. She also writes inspirational and religious music.

"I write at least two songs a year to post on my website for free download: The yearly Mutual theme scripture set to music, and a Christmas song. This year's YW song is We Seek After These Things. Others include; Let Virtue Garnish thy Thoughts Unceasingly, Seasons of Joy and I'll Go On In Faith," says Sister Sowards.

Her music is free and may be downloaded from her website http://joansowards.com/

Photo by Von Sowards

Joan Sowards, of Mesa, is the author of *Chocolate Roses* and *Haunts Haven* and her third, called *The Star Prophecy*, was recently released.



Cover courtesy of Joan Sowards

***The Star Prophecy* by Joan Sowards is a novel based on the Book of Mormon account of Samuel the Lamanite prophesying of the Savior's birth and portrays what it may have been like during the five days before His birth.**

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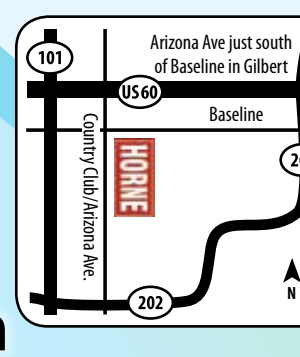

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Readership Reaches Nearly 1,000,000 for Young Adult Novelist, Janette Rallison

Courtesy of Janette Rallison

The recently released young adult novel, *My Unfair Godmother*, by Janette Rallison and published by Walker Books for Young Readers, is a follow-up to her popular *My Fair Godmother*.

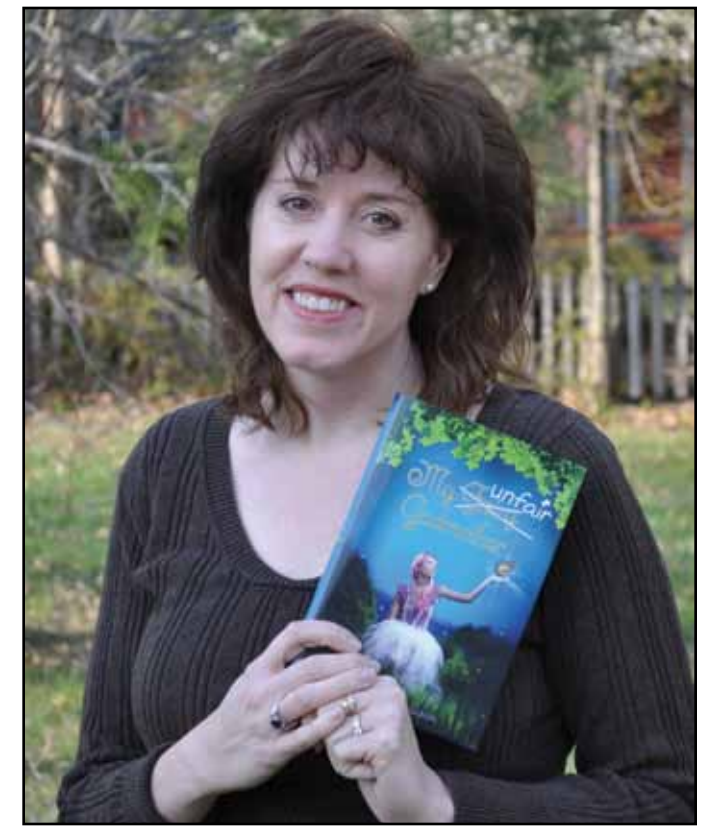

Photo by Guy Rallison

Janette Rallison, shown holding her 17th published book, writes "clean" young adult novels, while still drawing countless fans with her humorous writing and true-to-life topics.

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

With her 17th novel released April 12 and the 18th scheduled to hit bookstore shelves in November, Janette Rallison continues to delight young adult readers with her unique blend of humor and true-to-life topics and situations.

Her website states she has: "Over 1,000,000 books sold."

Yet, in the beginning, when Janette first attended meetings of the American Night Writers Association (ANWA), it was a little unsettling.

"It seemed like they all had agents and were sending out manuscripts," Janette says. "I knew I wanted to be published someday, but I thought someone had to give you permission to write."

One of the ANWA chapter meetings changed all that.

"The lesson was about having daily and weekly goals," she explains. "It made me realize that I could finish a book and have it to a publisher relatively soon."

She applied that lesson, wrote consistently and had a novel submitted to Deseret Book within seven months.

"It took them longer to decide to publish it than it did to write it," Janette laughs.

Her first six novels were written for the LDS market—five published by Deseret Book (some under the pseudonym of Sierra St. James) and one by Cedar Fort Books. *Playing the Field* was picked up by a mainstream publisher in 2002, followed in quick succession by at least one book a year since then.

At the heart of her move into the national market was her desire to appeal to her own children.

Janette says, "The national audience is much wider and I could write books that would end up in my kids' library. My friends would read my LDS novels, but I wanted my books in my kids' library ."

Sister Rallison says her books are free of questionable language and situations. She says she is surprised by some of the "reprehensible topics" being presented in some young adult

Continued on pg. 33

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Couple Works to "Fix the Hurt" of Domestic and Dating Violence

Linda King (third from left), cofounder of Fix the Hurt, presents a keynote address on dating violence at Azusa Pacific University, a Christian university in California.

Photo courtesy of Linda King

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

When their daughter, Lisa, was killed in an act of domestic violence, Linda King and her husband, John, knew they had to do something.

The Kings, of the Fairfield Ward, Kimball East Stake, had already lost two adult children—their oldest son died in a car accident and their oldest daughter had been shot and killed in a home invasion. But, this was something different. This struck closer to home, this created an entirely different ripple effect. Lisa had been abused by the man who was supposed to have loved her for nine years prior to her death.

She, like too many others, had been caught in an all-too-familiar cycle that begins with isolation and guilt, progresses to more control and manipulation, name calling and accusations and then escalates to physical abuse.

After Lisa's death, Linda was asked to share her experience with others.

"I was asked to speak a lot, at schools and other places, and I saw an opportunity to have that be a part of our lives," says Linda.

"While going out and doing speaking engagements was somewhat successful, we wanted to do more," she says.

They wanted something that was "easier for people to take, yet more meaningful," she says.

Linda began toying with the idea of bringing a theatrical aspect to her presentations. She had been involved in drama in high school and says, "I began thinking, 'I do have some friends who are talented at writing and creating."

Soon, John and Linda had founded and were running their "Fix the Hurt" nonprofit organization, and their "Domestic Violence...the Musical" was being performed across the United States. An interactive performance that provides "myth-busting information set to toe-tapping music," the musical has been seen by thousands.

"Each song is a different style and provides a specific message about the realities of domestic violence that will have the audience clapping, cheering, crying and silent," their website claims. "It's a performance that will leave them with an important

Continued on pg. 33

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As if the above weren't bad enough you may have sleeplessness, irritable bowel syndrome, headaches, irritable bladder, depression and/or anxiety. Sounds terrible, doesn't it? That's what people who suffer from fibromyalgia – also known as fibromyositis, fibrositis and myofascial pain syndrome – must endure. For some, this condition is annoying; but for others, the symptoms are all but disabling.

The medical profession is at a loss when confronted with fibromyalgia. Because of the limitations of the medical approach, MDs are approaching fibromyalgia treatment using a combination of therapies: medication, physical therapy, counseling and support groups, which have had limited success.

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New LDS website is a great place for youth

The LDS Church's website is enhanced with many new features; if you haven't visited it recently, go to www.lds.org and check it out.

Included is a great place for youth to find interesting and uplifting content. Visitors to the site can download music, watch videos, read messages, keep track of Personal Progress and Duty to God advancement and much more. On the menu bar, find it under family>youth or go directly to www.youth.lds.org.

Brief messages from the First Presidency give inspired guidance on such topics as gratitude, education, friends, sexual purity, music and dancing, entertainment and the media, dating and repentance. Scripture references are included for further study. There are many General Conference talks to read, watch online or download.

Other videos to watch or download include a special feature on last year's Gila Valley Temple Celebration; a young man's personal experience with "Inviting All to Come unto Christ: Sharing the Gospel"; Elder Russell M. Nelson talk, "What is Tolerance?" and information on this year's youth theme. These videos can easily be shared through email, Facebook, Twitter or Delicious. Youth are also invited to login and share personal experiences relating to the topics and those comments may be posted for others to see.

A popular feature includes free music downloads—songs from seminary, the Young Women program, General Conference, the New Era, A Brand New Year CDs and Strength of Youth Media 2011.

Scriptures are available in 18 languages and a new tool called "My Study Notebook" helps personalize online scriptures with notes, markings and highlights. A free, downloadable Gospel Library app is available for Apple, Android, Palm and Blackberry devices.

Visitors can search current and past issues of the New Era magazine, print Mormonads to use at home or for seminary devotionals, play games like New Era Sudoku or Hymn Vocabulary and search the extensive Q&A index (these can also be saved to your Study Notebook).

Click on "Gospel Topics" for a list of everything from Aaronic Priesthood to miracles to Zion. This reading material comes from Church magazines and manuals.

Check out the interactive version of Young Men Duty to God or Young Women Personal Progress. To keep track of personal goals, youth can sign in with an LDS membership record number (if you don't know it, ask your ward clerk or Church leader for an Individual Ordinance Summary printed from Church records). Parents and leaders of Young Women also can access a parent or leader summary page where the goals can be signed off on (that feature isn't activated yet for parents and leaders of Young Men).

Youth can also review New Era writers' guidelines and submit questions, articles, poems and personal experiences for possible publication in the magazine.

Link to the iTunes store for the official LDS Youth app. Compatible with iPhone, iPod touch and iPad, this free app offers the latest youth content from the website. LDS Youth is also on Facebook.

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Readership Reaches Nearly 1,000,000
Continued from pg. 31

novels today.

"It's hard to find G-rated young adult books," she says. Even in her own writing, she admits, "It's always a hard decision," when trying to create "believability while maintaining standards."

"You're not writing about perfect people and your characters have to have flaws. They're not always saying or doing the right things," she says. As her writing gauge, she often asks herself, "Would I let my teenage daughter read this?"

Her latest novel, *My Unfair Godmother*, published by Walker Books for Young Readers, is a follow-up to her popular *My Fair Godmother* and shares the antics of the fairy, Chrysantheum "Chrissy" Everstar as she interacts with another unsuspecting teen. When Tansy Miller's three wishes conjure up Robin Hood and his Merry Men and then Rumpelstiltskin, she ends up needing the help of "her family, her wits, and especially the cute police chief's son."

Janette and her husband, Guy, have five children and are members of the Grove First Ward in the Chandler East Stake.

Her ultimate goal, she quips, is to "write enough that every single human being has one of my books."

To learn more, visit janetterrallison.com or read Janette's blog at www.janette-rallison.blogspot.com.

Couple Works to Fix the Hurt
Continued from pg. 31

understanding that domestic violence can happen to anyone and how it can be effectively handled by loved ones and the community at large."

"Domestic Violence … the Musical" and other performances by "Fix the Hurt" have been performed in local theaters, including the Broadway Palm Theater and the Herberger; on military bases, including Fort Bliss and Luke AFB; at the Perryville Women's Prison and other venues across the United States and even in Japan.

To date, Linda says, "We have performed for over 20,000 people worldwide and have raised $15,000+ for victim services."

She says, "Still, a decade after Lisa's death, there are times when it is very, very personal. It's emotional to do these presentations. Yet, still," she says, "It's a way to give your grief a voice.

"The reality is, we're here to be tested and some tests are really, really hard," Linda says. The Kings understand that "there is not a soul who doesn't have something they're dealing with. We only hope we can make some else's life a little better.

The website (www.helpfixthehurt.org) offers information and clips from their theatrical presentations and other resources that can help answer questions about domestic violence and dating violence.

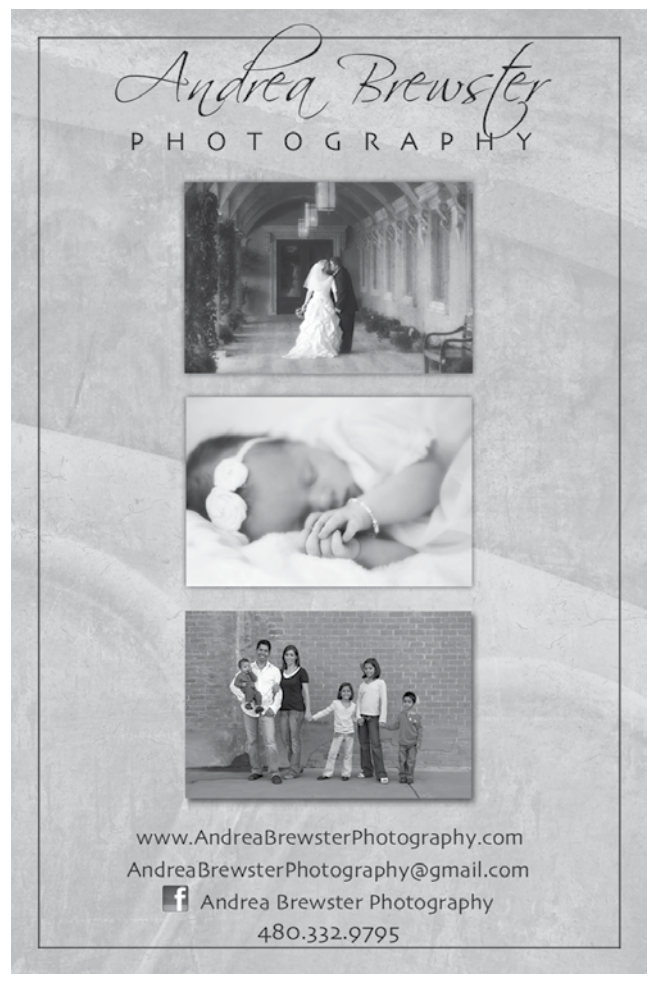
Soles4Souls Collects Shoes for People in Need

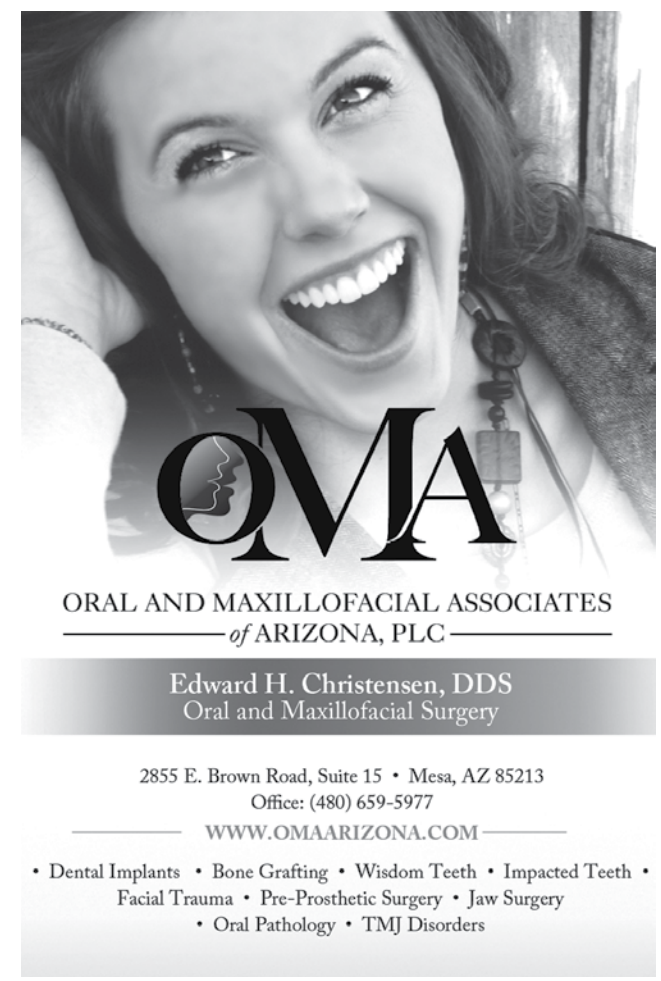
Soles4Souls, Nashville-based charity collects new and "gently used: shoes for people in need. Since 2005, the 501(c)(3) has given away nearly 12 million pairs shoes (currently donating one pair every seven seconds.) The shoes have been distributed to people in over 125 countries, including Kenya, Thailand, Nepal, Haiti and the United States.

The Soles4Souls team also coordinated relief efforts for the Asian Tsunami and Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, netting over one million pairs donated for these disasters. Sole4Souls has shoe drop-off locations at various places around the Valley, including at Foot Solutions located at 3761 East Baseline Road in Gilbert; Good Feet- Mesa at 6555 E. Southern Avenue in Mesa; Sport Chalet in Chandler, Tempe, Queen Creek and Scottsdale; and Brighton Collectibles in Chandler and Scottsdale.

For other Valley locations or to learn how to donate, visit www.soles4souls.org. According to the Sole4Souls website, "For every $1 you donate today to Soles4Souls, we can provide one additional pair of shoes to someone in need. $20 provides 20 pairs of shoes. $500 will change the lives of 500 people."

The Soles4Souls goal is to collect 11 million shoes in 2011.

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Mesan Returns to Set Up Dental Practice in Hometown

Photo by Valerie Ipson

Dr. Leo Christensen serves residents of the East Valley at Christensen Family Dentistry, a general dentistry practice located near Dr. Christensen›s alma mater, Mountain View High School.

By Valerie Ipson
The Beehive

At Christensen Family Dentistry, a primary objective and the thing they enjoy most is helping people achieve the smiles that make them happy. Dr. Leo Christensen says he is especially pleased to provide those smiles to people in Arizona, serving those who helped him become the person he is today.

Dr. Christensen's roots run deep in Arizona. Born and raised in Mesa, he excelled in academics and sports at Mesa's Mountain View High School before attending Mesa Community College. He went to Brigham Young University, where he joined the football team as a walk-on.

Dr. Christensen knew he wanted to work in a medical field and, while he thought of physical therapy due to all his sports experience, he ultimately chose dentistry.

He completed dental school at Indiana University School of Dentistry before returning to set up his practice here in the valley. "I loved the Hoosier State," Dr. Christensen says. "But I was anxious to return to Arizona. Maybe this area is not the prettiest, but it's the people that make it great."

The office at Stapley and University offers general dentistry for all ages, as well as crowns, bridges, implants and veneers.

"We provide care from kids to grandparents, routine to cosmetic, dentures to implants," Dr. Christensen says.

Dr. Christensen is certified in Invisalign, Interdisciplinary Dentistry and Tucker Gold Cast Restorations. He also performs oral cancer screenings.

He is enthusiastic about what he does and feels that patient satisfaction is of utmost importance. Because of this philosophy he offers thorough exams and procedures, and he promises predictable results that patients can count on.

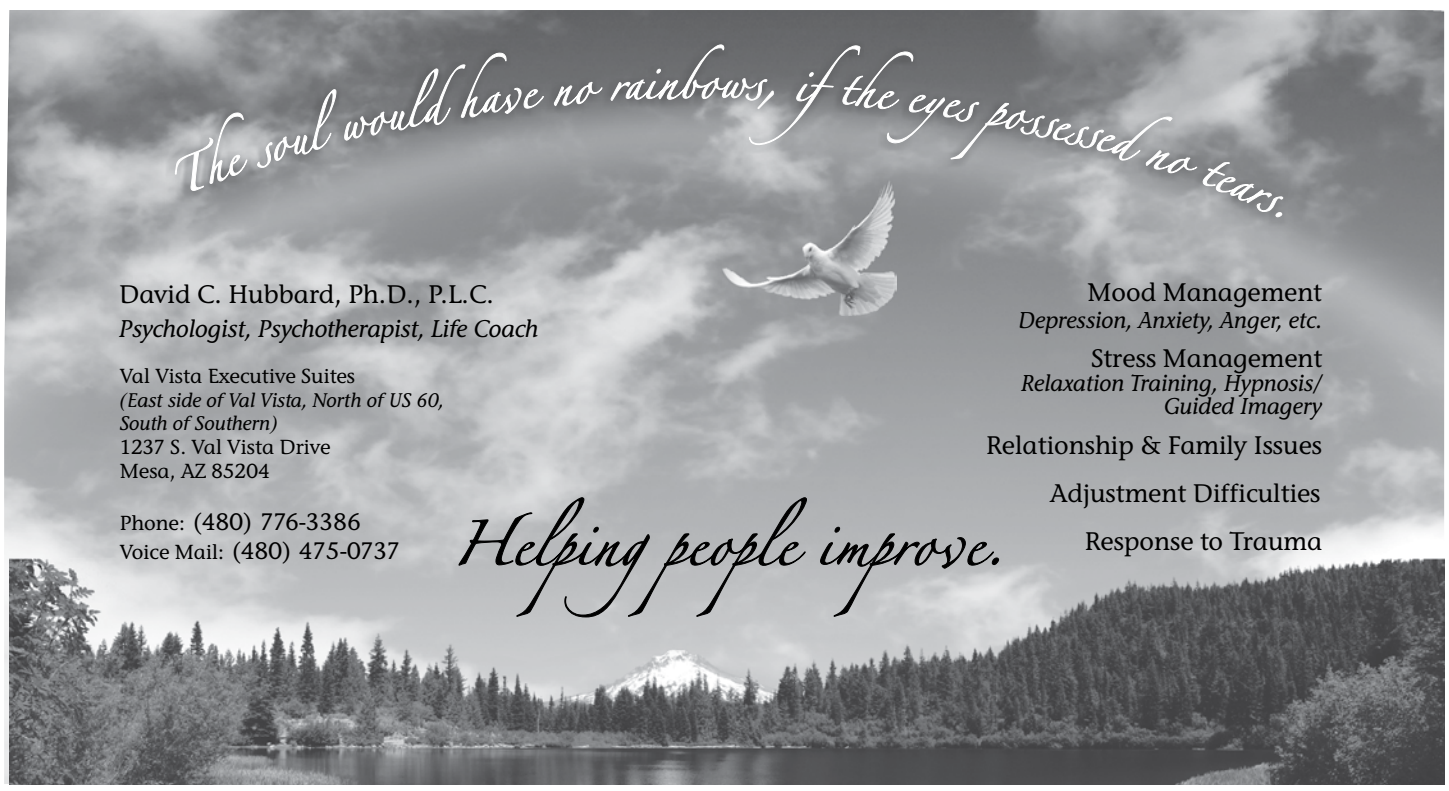
He says, "We keep things simple in the midst of complicated treatment. We are personable and professional and pride ourselves with predictable results."

Because he values relationships, he vows never to become complacent, but to give each patient the proper attention they deserve.

Dr. Christensen and his wife, Elizabeth, and their three daughters reside in the Val Vista Ward of the Mountain View Stake. They are happy to live close to so many members of their large family and among so many cousins.

An outdoor enthusiast, Dr. Christensen enjoys what Arizona has for sporting activities and outdoor events. He spends a great deal of his spare time hunting, fishing, horseback riding and mountain biking. "And," he comments, "where else can you shoot hoops in your driveway in the middle of winter?"

Christensen Family Dentistry, with Dr. Christensen, Dr. Alan Kulp, and the rest of the staff, is located at 560 N. Stapley Drive, Suite #2. To contact them, call 480-964-2131 or visit their website at christensenfamilydentistry.com.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Assist Families with Family Law and Financial Issues

Photo courtesy Karleen Gardner

Arizona attorneys and partners with McGuire Gardner, PLLC, (left to right) James M. McGuire, Pernell W. McGuire and Douglas C. Gardner apply their expertise to assist Arizona families with family law issues and bankruptcies, debt reduction and other financial issues.

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Arizona attorneys of McGuire Gardner, PLLC, offer services that many Arizona families need in today's financial climate.

The three McGuire Gardener offices focus on providing bankruptcy services, personal bankruptcy and debt relief for residents of Flagstaff, Prescott, Phoenix, Tempe, Mesa, Chandler, Gilbert and beyond.

Also, they offer a broad range of additional services dealing with family law, including divorce and parental rights cases.

Their website, at www.mcquire-gardner.com states: "Filing for a business or personal bankruptcy is a huge decision, and is one our attorneys can help you make. The end goal is debt relief, and we can help you find what you're looking for in terms of Chapter 7 bankruptcy, Chapter 13 bankruptcy, Chapter 11 bankruptcy, credit card debt relief, debt settlement, debt reorganization and debt discharge."

Managing partner Pernell W. McGuire graduated cum laude from Brigham Young University's J. Reuben Clark School of Law. He is now member of the Walnut Canyon Ward in the Flagstaff Stake, where he serves as bishop over the singles ward. He works out of McGuire Gardner's Flagstaff office. A former member of the bankruptcy advisory commission of the Arizona State Bar Association, he has over 17 years of bankruptcy experience and has personally handled more than 1,000 bankruptcy cases. In addition to operating his law offices, he is a lecturer of business law at Northern Arizona University.

Operating out of McGuire Gardner's Gilbert office is founding partner, Douglas C. Gardner. A native of Northeastern Arizona and a fourth generation Arizonan, he graduated from Arizona State University's Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law. Douglas is a member of the Cooper Ward, Gilbert Stapley Stake.

In addition to bankruptcy expertise and services, Gardner's family law practice includes contested and uncontested divorce, legal separation, annulment, property division and distribution, child custody, parenting time, child support, paternity, adoption, domestic violence, premarital agreements, modification and enforcement of decrees and orders. He also deals with grandparent rights and is a member of the Parental Alienation Global Directory.

Douglas's wife, Karleen, who is the marketing director for McGuire Gardner, says her husband's family law and bankruptcy expertise make for a good combination. "He is very good with money and numbers, which is beneficial in many family law situations. For example, he is good at making equitable distribution of funds."

McGuire Gardner partner, James McGuire handles bankruptcy as well as civil litigation, business disputes and creditor services. James graduated from the University of Arizona, James E. Rogers College of Law and he now lives in the Mesa 20th Ward, Maricopa North Stake.

McGuire Gardner offers free pre-bankruptcy seminars and free initial consultations. For a seminar schedule, visit www.freearizonabankruptyseminar.com. To contact McGuire Gardner, visit www.mcguiregardner.com or call 800-899-2730, 928-225-2597 or 480-559-8101.

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Valley Singles Shed Light on "The Real Life Singles Ward"

Movie trailer screenshot supplied by Whiptail Publishing

RuthAnn Hogue, 48, of Maricopa, speaks on camera during the filming of John Moyer's documentary titled, "The Real Life Singles Ward," now available on DVD

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

A new, light-hearted documentary by standup comedian, filmmaker, screenwriter and actor, John Moyer portrays real people and real stories of the Latter-day Saint singles community.

Unlike the original "Singles Ward" movie and its sequel, which were comedic spoofs, "The Real Life Singles Ward" portrays singles sharing their views about being single and LDS. The movie premiered in Utah this spring at the 10th Annual LDS Film Festival.

Arizona singles Dana Harper, of Mesa, and RuthAnn Hogue, of Maricopa, were invited to travel to Salt Lake City to talk on camera about what it's like for them to be LDS and single. Both have been single for 10 years and both have previously worked with Moyer, playing complementary husband-and-wife roles in Halestorm's "The RM" and assisting in the production and promotion of the original "Singles Ward" movie.

Moyer says, for this new DVD, operating on a shoestring budget was not the only challenge.

"I definitely have a message I want to say about the whole LDS culture that I think is quite peculiar. It had to be packed in a way it could be received," he says. "You can't make it too brutal or blatant. You want to make it somewhat funny."

Interviewed for the documentary were singles ranging in age from teenager to those in their 50s.

Jim Harnack, 50, a single member of the Church from Buckeye and a retired law enforcement officer, says one woman's comment particularly hit home for him. She talked about going to a singles event and never going back.

Harnack believes most singles will readily relate to the DVD.

"You will align with one of the personalities. You'll say to yourself, 'I know where he's coming from,' and immediately relate to something they said."

Harper, a long-time Arizona real estate broker, former television show host and organizer of Dana Harper and Friends in Utah and Arizona, made time for the interview over Fourth of July weekend while visiting family in Orem, Utah.

Hogue met up with film editor Mario DeAngelis in Sugar House Park while staying with her daughter in Salt Lake City during Labor Day weekend.

"It was so much fun because as a little girl I remember playing in Sugar House Park," Hogue said. "I never would have guessed that one day a

Continued on pg. 37

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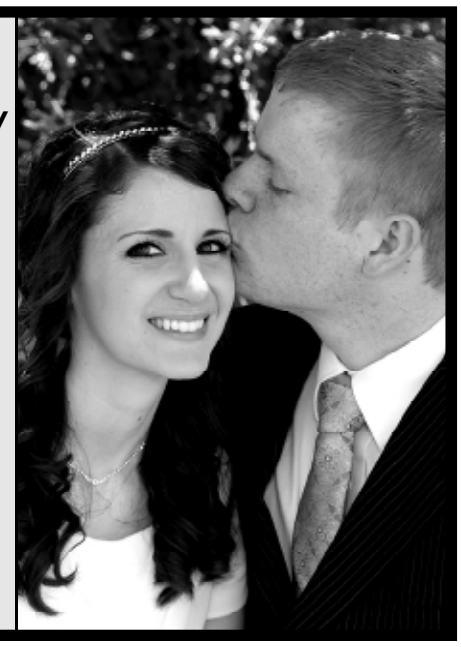

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A Single Story

by Michelle Thompson

Immorality vs. LDS Over-30 and Single

At adult-singles' firesides and conferences, there are often talks given on the subject of morality. Whether it is about the keeping of, pursuing of, or value of, you can be sure that someone will speak on the significance of passion-bridling. I don't care much for these talks. They typically are given by people who have never been over-30 and single, and thus have very little insight as to how complicated this particular subject can be.

Don't get me wrong, I appreciate the tender intentions of a well prepared talk. But, when you consider that Paul the Apostle, a single-adult whose testimony of Christ was stronger than most, still struggled to find a healthy balance between the temptations of mammon and the inspirations of God (2 Corinthians 12:7–10), I can't help but wonder if moral-purity among the LDS over-30 singles is viewed as more of a righteous inconvenience than a sacred blessing?

Recently I was on a date with a guy who said, "I don't see anything wrong with sleeping together and having a drink or two, just know that my core values are LDS." Shocked by the blasé way in which the comment was presented, I had to take a moment to absorb the actual words that had been articulated. This was a grown man who had obviously been taught LDS standards, who even claimed to have them, so how could he believe that such a course of action would now be considered appropriate?

After a bit more conversation, it became clear to me that this man had lost sight of what was of him and what was of God. For many years he had engaged in secret acts, as well as countless attempts at forgiveness from those acts. Finally, in the midst of frustration, he gave up trying to over-come altogether and instead elected to give in to what is now a substantial part of his character.

In 1980, President Kimball addressed the subject of immorality by saying," Immorality does not begin in adultery or perversion. It begins with little indiscretions like sex thoughts, sex discussions, passionate kissing, petting and such, growing with every exercise. The small indiscretion seems powerless compared to the sturdy body, the strong mind…. soon the strong has become weak, the master the slave, spiritual growth curtailed. But if the first unrighteous act is never given root, the tree will grow to beautiful maturity and the youthful life will grow toward God, our Father."

Morality and/or immorality are not a facet of character one simply stumbles onto. Whether it is by example or free-agency, it is a taught attribute. Therefore, no matter how small, big, good or bad, the little acts of righteousness and/or sin play a large role in how we perform as spiritually healthy individuals.

It is always important to maintain a moral conscience, but as an LDS over-30 single, it is vital to remember who we are, how far we've come, and what it means to be at this place in life. For this reason, it is also important to evoke the words of Peter, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Pet. 5:8).

For more LDS over-30 singles information, go to: www.singlestory-blog.blogspot.com

Valley Singles Shed Light
Continued from pg. 36

camera crew would have been meeting me there to talk about being single. I also never would have guessed that at this point in my life I would even be single."

They also have each been single for more than 10 years.

"The fascinating thing for me was talking to people 25 and under who were not dating anybody," Moyer said. "They would say, 'I will meet somebody in a year and everything will be great. By the time they are 30 and have never been married, they have a more realistic perspective. You could do a documentary simply on the over-30 crowd."

"The Real Life Singles Ward" DVD is available for purchase online, in Deseret Book Stores and some independent bookstores. For more information, visit www.reallifesinglesward.com. Purchase for $14.95 at http://www.halestormentertainment.com

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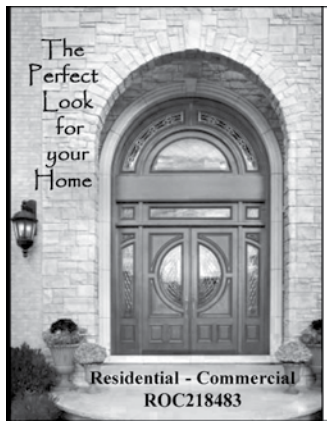

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In The Mommy Zone...

By Kristie Young Fairbanks

Here I am, waiting in the elementary school drop-off lane again, wondering why so many parents practice the same morning ritual that I have come to perfect over the years.

But today, the line snakes endlessly around the jammed parking lot and I am stuck at its serpentine end. I glance nervously at the clock on the dashboard, trying to gauge my time. Should I stay in line or try another maneuver during this final countdown before the tardy bell rings?

In an instant, I zip out of formation and squeeze into the only empty parking spot available, hoping my last minute tactic will pay off. Scrambling to collect overstuffed backpacks and a bulky music instrument, we promptly rush towards the school entrance.

The lot is bustling with vehicles perilously speeding about and parents dangling children in tow, frantically attempting to out-maneuver the metal beasts. I grasp my first-grader's hand and proceed to lead her and her fourth grade brother into the jumbled mass of parked cars, light poles, and frenzied fellow trekkers on our journey towards higher education.

Parking curbs become crossing paths as we weave in and out of the metallic maze. Up ahead, I spy the flag pole, we must be getting close. I lengthen my stride as my children scramble to keep pace with me.

Finally emerging from the last row of stationed cars, we accidentally stumble upon that familiar endless parent drop-off lane. We stand, hand in hand, wincing at the continuous flood of accelerating vehicles, desperate to cross the threshold, but not daring to traverse the treacherous flow of traffic for safety's sake.

Dozens of cars zip past as we watch and wait. I secretly wished I had stayed in that serpentine parent line, maybe I would have made the requisite drop off by now.

All of the sudden, a shadowy figure mysteriously appears on the horizon. I blink into the morning sunlight and spy a fluorescent orange vest radiating in the day-breaking dawn, accompanied by an octagonal red-emblazoned stop sign pivoted to save us from an untimely school tardy.

A heroic crossing guard saunters calmly out into the depths of the raging vehicular river, holding up her red emblem of power. All at once, time stands still as every automobile brakes at her command. When safety is secured, she beckons for us to cross.

As we pass our timely and efficient rescuer, she nods towards her polygon, a crimson symbol of strength and power. I heartily grin, grateful for her sign savvy and fashion finesse.

That crossing guard saved us. She was there in all her florescent glory to stop the flow of traffic and create a path for us, quelling the frantic hustle and bustle to ensure our safe passage, tardy free.

We all need crossing guards at times in our lives. Those who don the luminous safety vests and point their scarlet stop signs towards the sky. We need them to help stop life's traffic flow, spurning us to keep our own "busyness" in check amidst the frenzy of life's demands.

We need them to flash their prismatic stop signs directly in our paths every so often, helping remind us to keep life's pace balanced and free from traffic jams. Their stop signs can halt us from speeding through this thing called life, causing us to hit the brakes, making sure that we take time to relish in the precious present.

We can all learn valuable lessons from that crossing guard. Ones that will encourage us to "stop" and double check our own speed odometers. But rest assured, the vivid vests and octagonal emblems are not required!

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From the Editor's Desktop

By Cecily Markland

Lizard Racing with My Brother

Just mention the word "brother," and it conjures up images of fellowship and camaraderie, of close companionships, some even sealed with a mark made in blood. Bands of brothers hold common goals. For teammates and friends, the shortened "bro" is the ultimate expression of unity and regard.

For many, though, a real sense of brotherhood may be somewhat lacking; even among those with that assignment from birth, who share the same parents and bloodline and who grow up under the same roof.

Scriptural accounts are replete with examples of brotherhood gone bad. From the first set of brothers came the ultimate in sibling rivalry, when Cain slew his brother Abel.

In another Biblical account, brothers didn't resort to inflicting bodily harm, but, in a major act of betrayal and bullying, they sold their brother, Joseph, as a slave.

Yet, even when we know brothers can be akin to Lamans and Lemuels, there is still something about that relationship, something about having a "brother" that we cling to, yearn for, even pray for at times.

Recently, my brother, Steve, lay unconscious in a hospital bed, with doctors giving him less than 1 percent chance of surviving what they had identified as meningitis.

In those moments that stretched into a few hours, I prayed for a brother. I prayed for his life, for some reprieve that would bring him back around and restore his health.

I wanted my brother and, even more, I wanted more brotherhood moments with him. For many years, Steve and I hadn't been "brothers" in our Church activity, our chosen hobbies and pursuits and our way of living. Yet, I remember occasions when the differences were erased and we felt a connection of understanding, love and charity, if only for a moment.

There were silly sibling games, a gracious gift of money at a time when I was in need, and there were also lizard races. Ah, yes, what could be better than lizard races? For hours on end, in the field behind our family home, Steve and I and our two other sisters, would catch the slithering creatures, place them in our carefully created dirt-walled arena, and let the fun begin. There, kneeling in the dirt beside a little boy, I learned a little about having a brother, about kneeling together, cheering together and rubbing shoulders in what felt like a serious and important united effort.

Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles suggests that's precisely what each of us (both brothers and sisters) should be striving for in furthering the work of the Lord. "Establishing a bond of brotherhood is critical," Elder Wirthlin says. "If those who serve with you feel this mutual love and trust, the work the Lord will thrive and heaven will aid you in your efforts."

We understand that, as children of our Heavenly Father, all men and women are spiritually brothers and sisters; yet, how oft did I treat my own flesh and blood brother like I should have?. In D&C 38:25, we read: "… let every man esteem his brother as himself."

So, yes, as I watched him slip from this life into the next, I wanted my brother. I wanted a chance for a "do-over" or two. I wanted a few more times to show and feel that love and bond we first fostered in that field behind our house. I wanted just a few more lizard races.

I love you, Steve, and in your memory, I vow to try a little harder and be a little better. You taught me the importance of brothers, after all.

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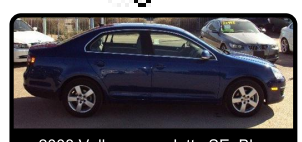
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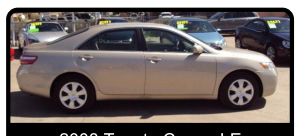
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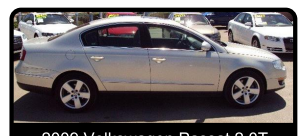
Beige Silver, 28K miles, AT, Teak Leather
Sidewalk edit. $22,177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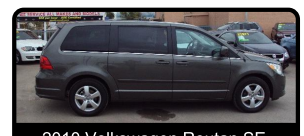
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Meteor Gray, 9k miles, DVD/Nav.
Leather 7-passenger $24,477

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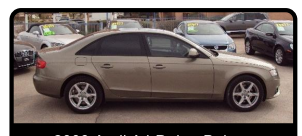
2009 Audi A4 Dakar Beige,
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Tint, Warranty, $27,977

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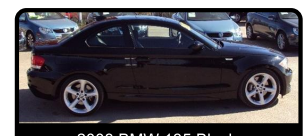
Automatic, Tint, $19,977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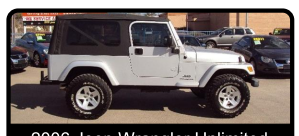
Mnrf, 18" Alloys, Fun!!!, $26,277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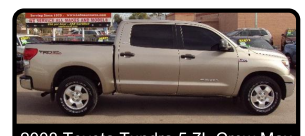
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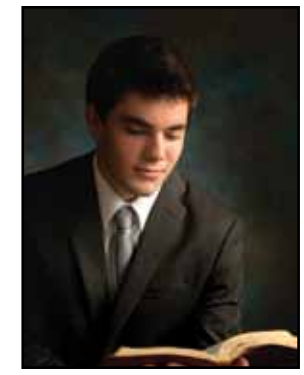

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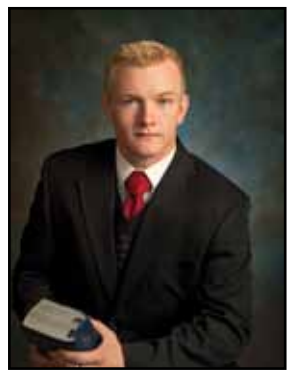

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Beautifully maintained custom home on an acre with NO HOA FEES! Wonderful split floor plan with huge family room overlooking manicured acre, sparkling water feature, koi pond, firepit, & mountain views. Spacious and bright kitchen boasts 42 inch custom cabinets with crown molding, newer double oven, island/breakfast bar, breakfast nook, and an abundance of storage space. Master suite features recently remodeled bath including snail shower, vintage style clawfoot tub, and new vanity with stone counters. 2056 Sq.Ft., 4 bedrooms and 2.5 baths creates plenty of space for the family or guest. Private north/south facing lot with RV gate, block fencing, mature landscaping, & plenty of space to bring your toys or horses. Enjoy country living with the conveniences of the city! Offered at $307,000

Mesa - Eastridge
1831 Sq.Ft., 4bed/2bath, formal living/dining, & open kitchen to family room. Conveniently located near 202!

Maricopa - Homestead
4 bed/2bath, family room & open kitchen. Corian counters, upgraded tile & carpet, extended back patio. Call for updated price!

Maricopa - 2 Acres
minutes from maricopa with stunning mountain views. Road frontage on two sides. offered at $19,900

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Call us today to hear about our proven success in marketing and selling short sales!

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Just Sold!

Casa Grande - McCartney Center

Gilbert - Chaparral Estates

Gilbert - Shamrock Estates

Gilbert - Coronado Ranch

Queen Creek - Cortina

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